

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>




160




DIGITAL  
EDITION

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"THE SAD  
MAN IS  
GONE.




"HE SAID HE  
NEEDS MY  
HELP BUT I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT I CAN  
DO. I'M JUST  
A KID.




"THE LIGHTS  
ARE GONE.  
THE RAPTURE  
IS OVER. ALL  
THE **GOOD**  
PEOPLE HAVE  
GONE TO  
HEAVEN.



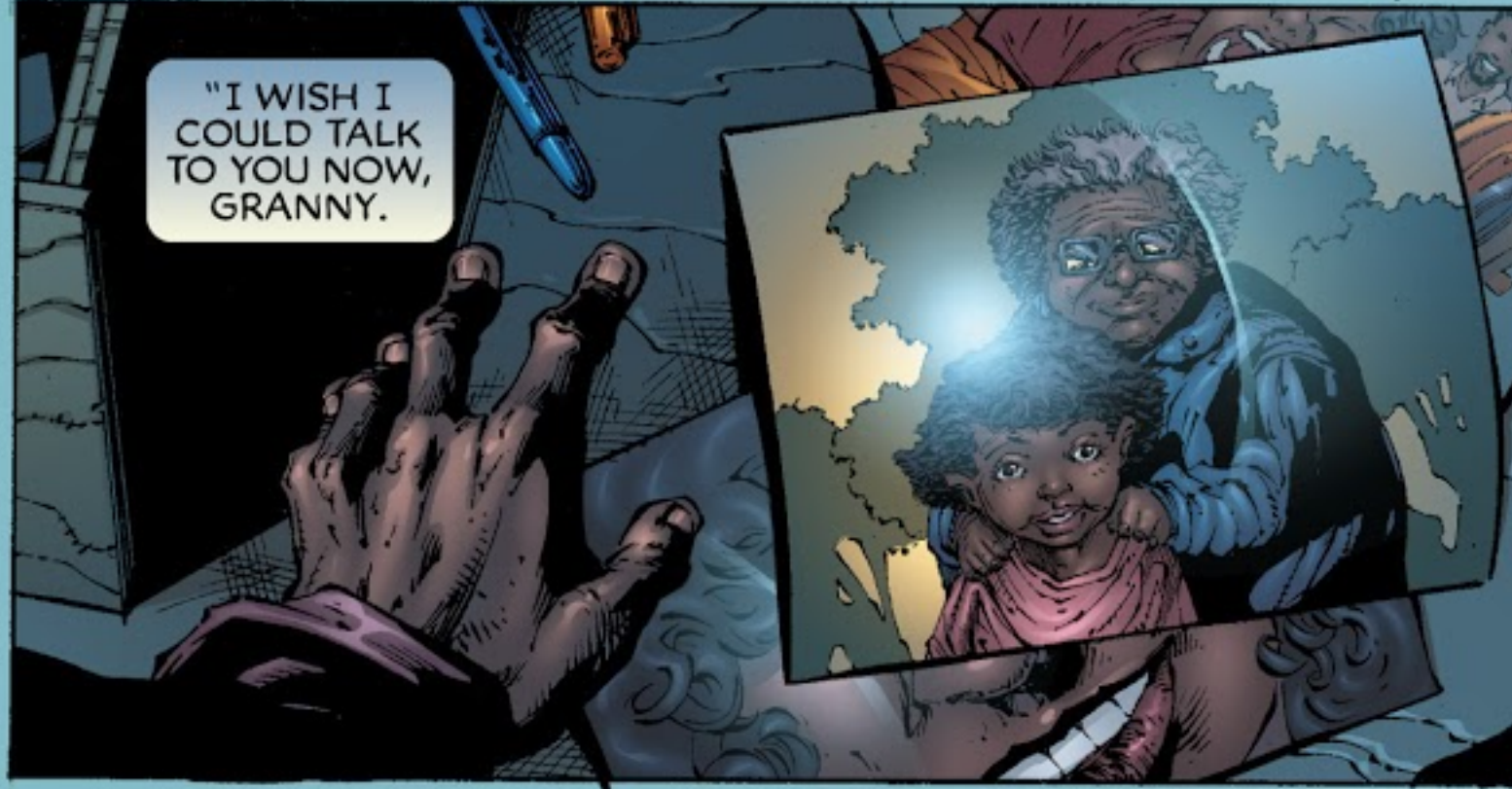
"I GUESS I WASN'T  
GOOD ENOUGH. **MOMMY**  
AND **DADDY** EITHER.




"GRANNY SAID  
THE SAD MAN WAS  
AN **ANGEL**, BUT I  
DON'T THINK SO.  
NOTHING'S EVER LIKE  
**GROWN-UPS** SAY.



"ALL I KNOW  
IS THE SAD  
MAN LOOKS  
AFTER ME.



"I WISH I  
COULD TALK  
TO YOU NOW,  
GRANNY.



"I WISH I WAS  
IN HEAVEN  
WITH YOU."





THIS ISN'T  
RIGHT.

THIS  
ISN'T THE  
WAY IT'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE.

YEAH, YEAH,  
I KNOW. IT'S  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
FLUFFY CLOUDS AND  
HARPS AND SINGING  
MY PRAISES ALL  
DAY LONG.



I DUNNO  
WHO CAME  
UP WITH THAT  
**CRAP**, BUT C'MON  
**GET REAL!**  
DO I LOOK LIKE  
THE KIND OF GUY  
WHO WANTS TO  
SPEND ETERNITY  
IN A FREAKING  
KARAOKE  
BAR?



"FACT IS, MY  
BROTHER...SISTER...  
**WHATEVER** HE IS  
THESE DAYS...HE HAS  
THE UPPER HAND  
RIGHT NOW.

"ARMAGEDDON  
IS ABOUT TO  
KICK OFF AND MY  
PEOPLE HAVE  
BEEN **FIGHTING**  
AMONG  
**THEMSELVES.**

"ZERA HAS PRETTY  
MUCH **MASSACRED**  
THE FORGOTTEN,  
WHICH LEAVES US  
WITHOUT AN ARMY.  
SO I NEED YOU  
PEOPLE TO FIGHT  
THE GOOD FIGHT."

BUT  
WE ARE  
**THE  
SAVED.**  
WE HAVE  
LIVED A LIFE  
OF HUMILITY  
AND  
DEVOTION  
AS YOU  
ORDAINED,  
LORD.

IT'S NOT  
OUR  
PLACE TO  
**FIGHT.**





**HUMILITY?!**  
I THINK YOU GOT  
YOUR WIRES  
CROSSED.

STRIKING  
DOWN WITH  
**GREAT  
VENGEANCE--**  
THAT'S MORE  
**MY** THING.

IT'S TRUE YOU'RE  
NOT PERFECT WARRIOR  
MATERIAL, BUT HEY... I CREATED  
HEAVEN AND MOST OF THE  
GOOD STUFF ON EARTH, SO I  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK  
SOMETHING HERE...

YOU ARE  
NOT MY GOD.  
I KNOW MY  
REDEEMER...



THE LORD IS MY  
SHEPHERD,  
I SHALL NOT WANT.  
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN  
IN GREEN PASTURES:  
HE LEADETH ME BESIDE THE  
STILL WATERS.  
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL:  
HE LEADETH ME IN THE PATHS  
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR  
HIS NAMES' SAKE.



YEA  
THOUGH I WALK---  
THOUGH I WALK---  
THROUGH TH-THE  
VALLEY OF THE SH-  
SHADOW OF DEATH---  
I WILL FEAR---I WILL  
FEAR---



**NOOOOOO!!!**





NOW  
**THAT'S**  
MORE LIKE IT.  
WHEN SATAN SEES  
MY LEGION OF THE  
ENRAPTURED HE'S  
GONNA WET HIS  
FRILLY PINK  
PANTIES.

AMEN.





ALL THAT  
AGGRESSION---  
WHERE DOES IT  
COME FROM?

IT SEEMS  
YOUR TIME  
HAS COME,  
AL  
SIMMONS.

YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT YOU  
HAVE TO  
DO?



TAKE  
OUT THE  
DISCIPLE AND  
YOU GRANT  
ME THE  
POWERS OF  
A GOD.

MAN HAS  
ALWAYS HAD  
THE POTENTIAL  
TO BECOME A  
GOD. ALL HE HAS  
TO DO IS EAT  
FROM THE **TREE  
OF LIFE**--A TREE  
THAT HAS GROWN  
SINCE THE DAWN  
OF CREATION IN  
THE GARDEN  
OF EDEN.

MOST PEOPLE  
BELIEVE THAT THE  
GARDEN OF EDEN NO  
LONGER EXISTS, THAT IT  
WAS DESTROYED IN THE  
GREAT FLOOD AND IS  
NOW NO MORE THAN  
BARREN DESERT.

BUT EDEN  
WAS ALWAYS A  
**MYSTICAL PLACE**,  
EXISTING IN A  
WORLD **PARALLEL**  
TO THE EARTH'S  
PHYSICAL  
DIMENSION.



THERE IS A  
**PORTAL TO EDEN**,  
JUST AS THERE ARE  
PORTALS TO HELL. I HAVE  
CHARGED **THE DISCIPLE**  
TO GUARD THAT PORTAL  
AGAINST ALL  
INTRUDERS.

EDEN WAS  
ALWAYS WITHIN  
YOUR REACH, YOU  
ONLY NEEDED TO  
WALK A FEW SHORT  
PACES ALONG YOUR  
WRETCHED  
ALLEYWAYS---

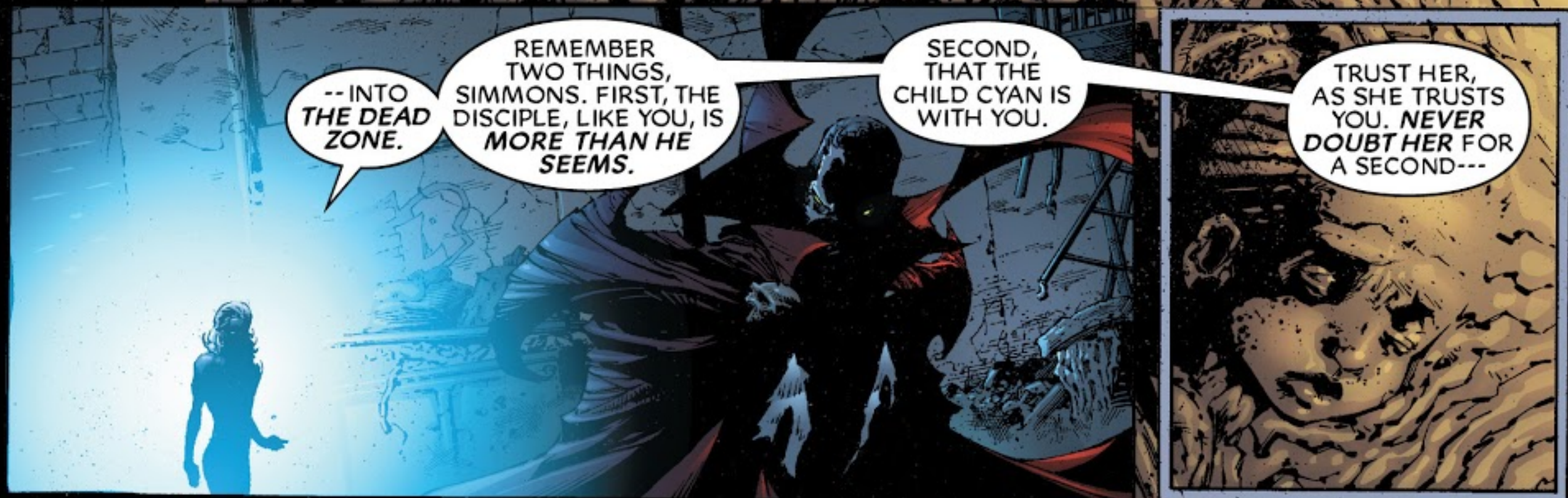


-- INTO  
THE DEAD  
ZONE.

REMEMBER  
TWO THINGS,  
SIMMONS. FIRST, THE  
DISCIPLE, LIKE YOU, IS  
MORE THAN HE  
SEEMS.

SECOND,  
THAT THE  
CHILD CYAN IS  
WITH YOU.

TRUST HER,  
AS SHE TRUSTS  
YOU. NEVER  
DOUBT HER FOR  
A SECOND---





---SHE IS WISE  
BEYOND HER  
YEARS.

WHAT'S  
UP WITH MY  
LAPTOP?

NEVER  
SEEN IT  
GLOWING  
LIKE  
THAT---



WHAT IS  
**THAT?**

LOOKS  
LIKE SOME  
KIND OF  
BEAT 'EM UP  
GAME.



THAT'S  
THE SAD MAN.  
SPAWN.

BUT WHO  
IS HE  
FIGHTING?



**DISCIPLE!**



YOU'RE A  
GLUTTON FOR  
PUNISHMENT,  
AREN'T YOU,  
HELLSPAWN?



I'M  
THROUGH  
BEING  
PUNISHED.

YOU  
WANT A  
PIECE OF  
ME?



**HAVE A  
PIECE OF  
ME!!!**



EDEN. GARDEN OF  
ETERNAL PEACE.

SINCE ADAM AND  
EVE WERE CAST  
OUT, NO HUMAN  
FOOT HAS WALKED  
THIS LUSH GREEN  
LAND, NO HUMAN  
LIPS HAVE TASTED  
THIS SWEET AIR.



I'M GONNA  
RIP YOUR  
GODDAMNED  
ENTRAILS OUT  
THROUGH YOUR  
ASS HELLSPAWN,  
AND THIS TIME  
I'M GONNA EAT  
THEM!!

YOU HEAR  
ME YOU SACK OF  
**SHIT??!!**



COME  
ON---



---FIGHT  
ME!



WAS  
THAT ALL  
YOU  
HAD?



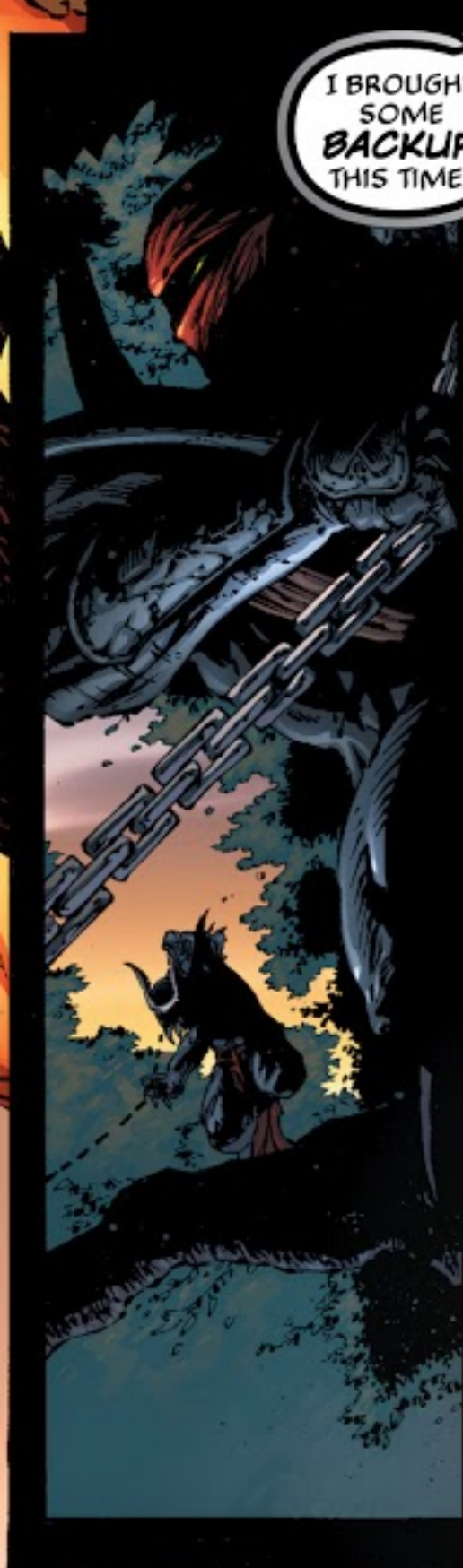




WHA-?



LAST  
TIME WE  
FOUGHT,  
YOU RIPPED  
ME UP  
BAD.



I BROUGHT  
SOME  
**BACKUP**  
THIS TIME.



I GUESS  
THAT'S NOT  
PLAYING FAIR,  
BUT YOU  
KNOW  
WHAT?

SUE  
ME.



THAT  
WAS TOO  
EASY.

I  
**NEVER**  
HAVE IT THIS  
EASY.





SPAWN!  
THERE ARE  
**MORE** OF  
THEM!



THERE'S A  
**DISCIPLE** FOR  
EACH ISLAND  
BETWEEN YOU  
AND THE TREE  
OF LIFE.



THAT'S  
WHY HE HAD  
THE NUMBER  
TWELVE ON HIS  
HELMET.



CONGRATULATIONS,  
HELLSPAWN, YOU HAVE  
DEFEATED JAMES THE  
LESS, THE **WEAKEST** OF  
OUR NUMBER.

POOR  
JAMES.  
THEY SAWED  
HIS BODY INTO  
PIECES AFTER THEY  
MARTYRED HIM  
AT OSTRAKINE.  
DISMEMBERMENT  
SEEMS TO BE  
HIS FATE.

MY  
NAME IS  
SIMON  
PETER.

THEY  
CALL ME  
**THE  
ROCK.**



ONE DOWN,  
ELEVEN TO GO!  
YOU TWO TAKE  
DOWN THE  
ROCK GUY.

I'LL  
TAKE  
NUMBER  
TEN.







SPAWN,  
LISTEN TO  
ME! THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE  
HERE.



**A  
COUNTER!**



A  
COUNTER?  
IT CAN'T  
BE!

WHAT  
DOES IT  
READ?



IT JUST  
DROPPED FROM  
TWO HUNDRED AND  
SEVENTY-FOUR TO  
TWO HUNDRED AND  
THIRTY-SIX.

IF IT  
REACHES  
ZERO, I THINK  
YOU'RE IN  
TROUBLE.



"THOSE OTHER  
FIGHTERS ARE  
**EATING UP**  
YOUR POWER."



**0.211**





WHEN  
MALEBOLGIA FIRST  
RESURRECTED ME HE  
TOLD ME MY POWER WAS  
LIMITED. BUT THAT WAS  
SO LONG AGO. I THOUGHT  
WHEN I DESTROYED HIM  
I WAS FREE FROM  
THAT DAMNED  
COUNTER.

NOW I'M  
HEMORRHAGING  
POWER. IT MUST BE THIS  
PLACE. A HELLSPAWN  
WAS NEVER MEANT TO  
ENTER **EDEN**.

CYAN,  
WHAT'S IT  
READING  
NOW?



ONE  
EIGHTY-  
EIGHT.

YOU CAN'T  
USE HELP. YOU  
HAVE TO FIGHT  
THE REST OF  
THEM BY  
YOURSELF.



"AND YOU'LL HAVE  
TO MOVE FAST. THE  
COUNTER IS STILL  
DROPPING EVEN  
WHILE YOU **AREN'T**  
**FIGHTING.**"





HE FIGHTS WITH A SPEED  
AND DESPERATION HE  
HAS NEVER KNOWN.



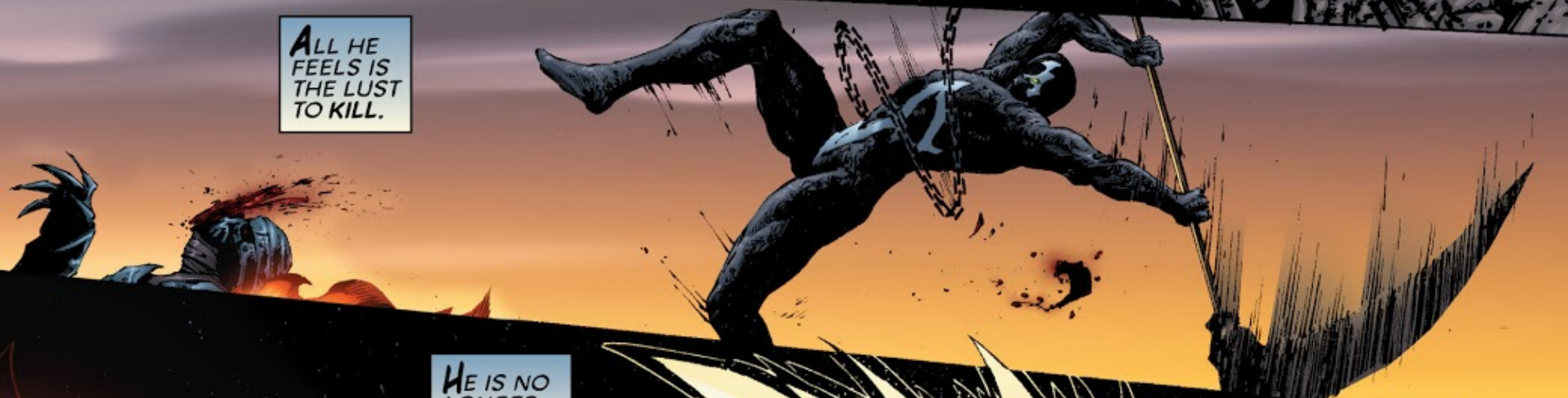
THE LIVES  
OF BILLIONS  
DEPEND ON THE  
DEATH HE DEALS  
OUT HERE IN  
THE BIRTHPLACE  
OF MANKIND.



HE SHOWS NO  
HESITATION,  
NO MERCY.



ALL HE  
FEELS IS  
THE LUST  
TO KILL.



HE IS NO  
LONGER  
HUMAN---



---HE IS  
HELLSPAWN!





As CYAN follows the battle she mutters prayers under her breath. Prayers granny Blake taught her.

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep---"



"---Angel of God, my Guardian dear---"



"---God bless Mommy and Daddy and all the children everywhere---"





SHE KNOWS  
SHE IS MISSING  
SOMETHING.

PRAYERS  
WON'T  
HELP NOW.

SHE HAS  
TO THINK.

THE LAST  
DISCIPLE.  
JUDAS.

JUDAS  
ISCARIOT.

BETRAYER  
OF JESUS.

WHAT  
WAS IT  
GRANNY  
SAID  
ABOUT  
JUDAS?

THAT HE HAD  
TO BETRAY  
HIS MASTER.

HE HAD TO---





YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE LORD SATAN. I AM MORE USE TO YOU ALIVE.



LORD?

LORD SATAN?!

DID YOU NOT INSIST THAT YOU ARE MASTER HERE?

IN THE ABSENCE OF HELL'S TRUE RULER. I HAVE SERVED THIS PLACE.

I HAVE RAISED HELL'S POWER TO BE ASCENDANT OVER HEAVEN.

WEREN'T YOU AN ANGEL ONCE?



HEAVEN FORGOT ME. I OWE THEM NO ALLEGIANCE.



OH MAMMON, TREACHEROUS MAMMON.

EVER THE TURNCOAT.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW, THE **FOUR HORSEMEN** ARE READY TO RIDE.

YOU HAVE **NO ARMY**. YOUR ANGELS HAVE BEEN **MASSACRED**.

I HAVE A NEW ARMY.

THE RAPTURE?

**ALL RIGHT, LET THE HORSEMEN LOOSE! I'M READY FOR YOU!!**







BAKERSFIELD,  
CALIFORNIA. THE  
FITZGERALD HOME.

RRRRRR  
R-R-R  
R-R-R

RR-R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R  
R-R-R-R-R-R-R-R



OH  
MY GOD!  
IT'S AN  
EARTH-  
QUAKE!

CYAN!

CYAN!  
WHAT IS  
THAT?!

MOM!  
I--I THINK  
IT'S TO  
PROTECT  
ME.

PROTECT  
YOU?

I CAN'T  
LEAVE  
HERE  
NOW.

I HAVE  
SOMEHING  
REALLY  
IMPORTANT  
TO DO.

I MUSTN'T BE  
DISTURBED.





HE'S  
DONE IT.  
HE'S DEFEATED  
THE LAST  
DISCIPLE.

HE ONLY  
HAS TO KILL  
JUDAS TO  
WIN.



SO WHY  
DO I HAVE A  
BAD FEELING  
ABOUT IT?



He prays for fire that quickly may restore  
The youth and vigour which he had before.  
The sun god smites with vital fire  
The willing bird, to burn is his desire  
The whole fabric of nature at a stand remains  
'Til the old bird anew, young begins again.



ALL RIGHT,  
JUDAS, IF YOU  
HAVE ANY  
PRAYERS, NOW'S  
THE TIME TO SAY  
THEM!

SPAWN,  
WAIT! YOU  
MUSTN'T  
KILL HIM!

CYAN?





I HAVE  
TO FINISH  
THIS. I'M  
RUNNING  
OUT OF  
TIME.



"THE CHILD  
CYAN IS  
WITH YOU.



"TRUST  
HER AS  
SHE  
TRUSTS  
YOU.



"NEVER  
DOUBT HER  
FOR A  
SECOND.



LET  
HIM  
WIN!



"SHE IS  
WISE  
BEYOND  
HER  
YEARS."



THIS IS  
IT!







"IT'S  
THE BIG  
ONE!!"



NO-  
O-O  
OO!







# SPAWN



PHILIP  
JAN-06

DANNY  
MARTINEZ

161



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"In those days, it is said that the greatest center of truth knowledge and enlightenment, the heart of civilization, was in a place known as the City of Angels.

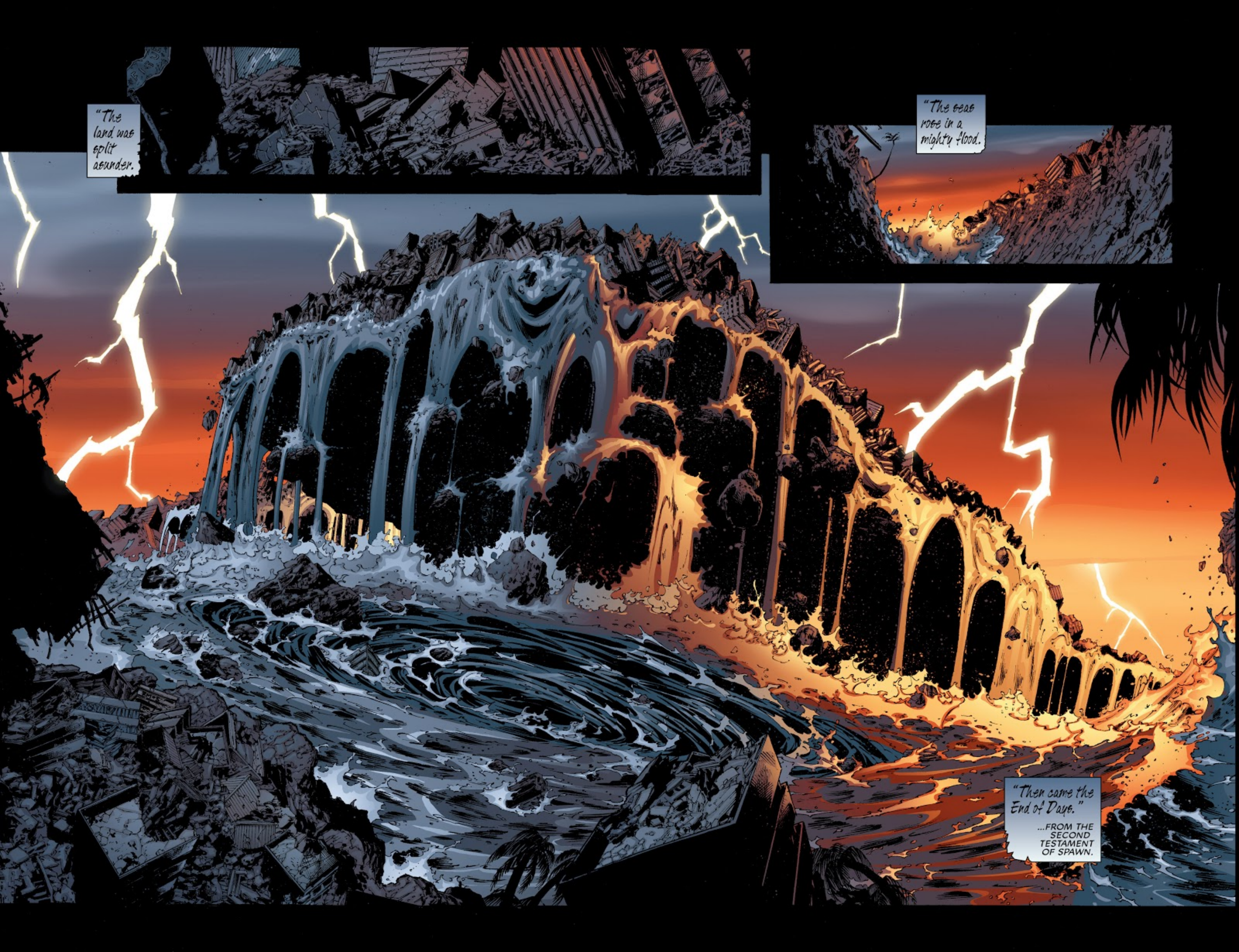


"It was here that Armageddon was unleashed. The skies grew dark and the earth shook ...



"... and the great city was no more."





"The  
land was  
split  
asunder."

"The seas  
rose in a  
mighty flood."

"Then came the  
End of Days."

...FROM THE  
SECOND  
TESTAMENT  
OF SPAWN.



BAKERSFIELD,  
CALIFORNIA.

"WHAT THE HELL  
ARE THOSE THINGS?  
I SWEAR THEY CAN  
SMELL US."

SNRRFF



GNNRRRR





IT'S OKAY HONEY. WHATEVER THIS STUFF IS, I THINK IT'S GOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE.



I DON'T WANT TO BE IN *HERE*. I DON'T CARE ABOUT BEING SAFE.

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AND DADDY.



SUCH A BRAVE LITTLE GIRL. SHE WOULD DIE WITH HER PARENTS RATHER THAN LIVE WITHOUT THEM.

VERY WELL CHILD, I WILL REWARD YOUR COURAGE. WHATEVER YOUR FATE, YOU WILL SHARE IT TOGETHER.



WHAT?!

IT'S OKAY, DADDY. IT'S PROTECTING YOU.



RAARRGGHH!!!









YOU FOUGHT WELL, JUDAS.

YES, BUT NOT WELL ENOUGH. HE HAD ME AT HIS MERCY, SO WHY DID HE ALLOW THIS?

WHY DID YOUR **ENEMY** GIVE UP?

HE WAS NEVER **MY ENEMY**. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT.

HISTORY HAS MADE YOU THE MOST DESPISED CREATURE IN CHRISTENDOM.

BUT OF ALL MY DISCIPLES, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO UNDERSTOOD THAT WITHOUT THE CRUCIFIXION, THE LIFE OF CHRIST HAD NO MEANING.

YOU, JUDAS, ARE MY MOST BELOVED DISCIPLE.

THE ONE I **TRUSTED** TO BETRAY ME.

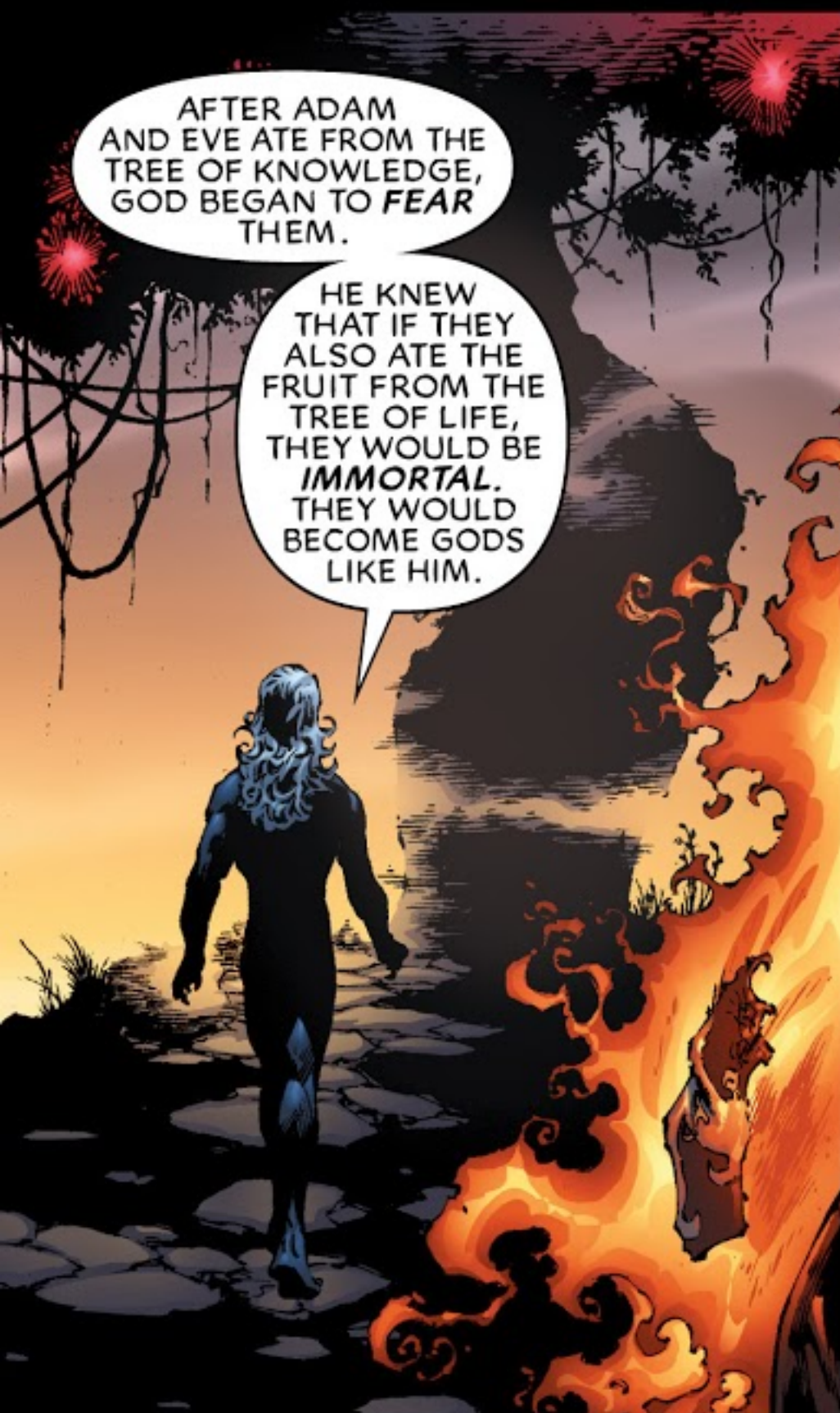


NOW OF ALL HUMANITY, THIS POOR CREATURE IS THE VESSEL I HAVE CHOSEN TO BE THE NEW **SAVIOR** OF THIS WORLD.

HE LOOKS ALMOST SERENE, AS IF HE WELCOMED DEATH.

YES. IT'S A PITY I CAN'T LEAVE HIM TO REST IN PEACE.





AFTER ADAM AND EVE ATE FROM THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE, GOD BEGAN TO **FEAR** THEM.

HE KNEW THAT IF THEY ALSO ATE THE FRUIT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, THEY WOULD BE **IMMORTAL**. THEY WOULD BECOME GODS LIKE HIM.



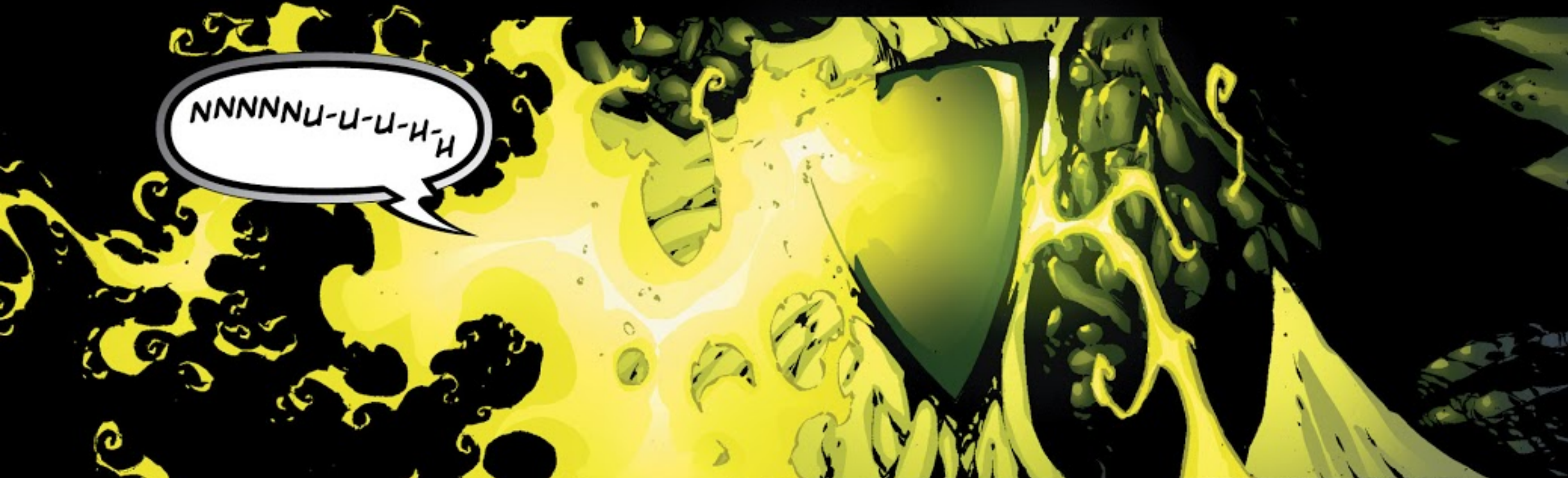
SO HE **BANISHED** HIS GREATEST CREATIONS FROM EDEN, SENDING THEM INTO A WORLD OF PAIN AND SORROW AND DEATH.



MANKIND HAS WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS MOMENT.



LIVE, AL SIMMONS.



NNNNNU-U-U-H-H





HE SEEMS  
RELUCTANT TO  
BE RE-BORN.



HE'S  
REMEMBERING.



"THIS IS NOT  
THE FIRST TIME  
AL SIMMONS  
HAS BURNED..."



"...OR THE  
FIRST TIME  
HE HAS BEEN  
REBORN."

SO, YOU  
BROUGHT  
ME BACK  
AGAIN.



WHAT IS THAT?  
IS THAT MY BODY?

YOU'RE FINISHED WITH IT. YOU'VE LEFT IT BEHIND, JUST LIKE THEM...

THOSE ARE THE SIX THOUSAND WHO DIED WITH ME.

THEY'RE LEAVING. THEIR TIME HERE IS OVER.

BUT I STILL FEEL THEM. I STILL REMEMBER...

THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WILL REMAIN WITH YOU.

YOU WILL NEVER LOSE THAT.

"WHERE WILL THEY GO NOW?"

"IF I TOLD YOU THAT, THERE WOULD BE NO MYSTERY."

"IT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU TO KNOW THAT THEIR JOURNEY IS JUST BEGINNING."

AND I'M STILL HERE.

YES. CYAN WAS RIGHT. YOU HAD TO DIE AGAIN SO THAT YOU COULD BE RE-BORN, STRONGER THAN EVER.

DO YOU FEEL IT? THE POWER OF A GOD...

OH YEAH. I FEEL IT. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME I HEARD THIS BEFORE. MALEBOLGIA BROUGHT ME BACK FROM THE DEAD, GAVE ME POWERS...

SO WHERE'S THE CATCH? WHAT'S THE DEAL THIS TIME?

NO DEAL. NO TRICKS. WHAT YOU DO NEXT WILL BE YOUR OWN CHOICE.

BUT IF YOU DO NOTHING THE HUMAN RACE WILL BE CONSUMED BY THE APOCALYPSE. NO RE-BIRTH. NO AFTERLIFE.

GONE AS IF THEY NEVER EXISTED.

THEN I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE AT ALL, DO I?



NEW YORK.

OH SHIT,  
ANOTHER  
ONE!

WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
WHO DID  
THIS?

IF YOU'RE HERE FOR  
THE MURDER AND MAYHEM,  
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE SON. I'M  
THE LAST MAN STANDING.

SO YOU  
WANNA DO THIS,  
OR WHAT?

YOU  
WANT TO  
FIGHT  
ME?

WITH A  
**STICK?!**

WELL I'M NOT  
GONNA CRAWL AND  
BEG. AND I'M NOT  
GONNA RUN.

BESIDES,  
YOU DON'T  
LOOK SO  
TOUGH.

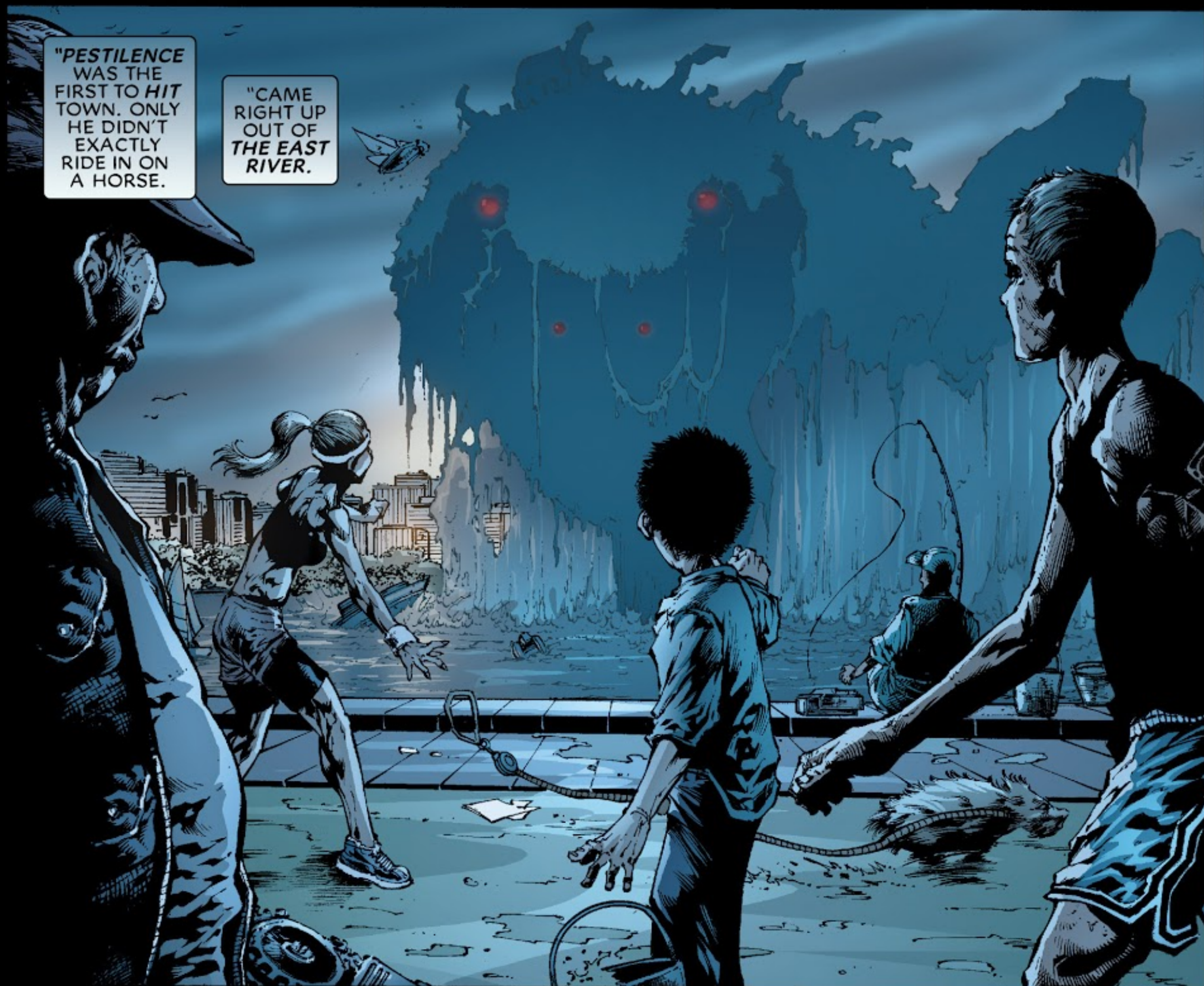
**F-ZAK!**

I ASKED YOU A  
QUESTION.  
WHAT  
HAPPENED?

JEEZ!  
OKAY! O-  
**KAY!**

YOU HEARD  
OF THE **FOUR**  
HORSEMEN?





"PESTILENCE WAS THE FIRST TO HIT TOWN. ONLY HE DIDN'T EXACTLY RIDE IN ON A HORSE.

"CAME RIGHT UP OUT OF THE EAST RIVER.



"THEY SAID THE **SMELL** THAT CAME OFF HIM WAS ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.



"WHEREVER HIS SHADOW FELL, PEOPLE GOT SICK.



"BOILS FILLED WITH PUS. BLOOD SPEWING OUT EVERYWHERE. FLESH TURNING BLACK AND DROPPING OFF.

"IT WAS LIKE EVERY DISGUSTING DISEASE YOU EVER HEARD OF ALL ROLLED INTO ONE."





"NEXT UP WAS **DEATH**. THEY SHOWED THIS ON THE TV FOR A WHILE, AS LONG AS THERE WERE PEOPLE LEFT TO FILM IT.

"MAN, THAT WAS **WILD**... SEEING THAT THING MARCHING DOWN BROADWAY LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A **JAPANESE MONSTER MOVIE**...



"...ONLY WITH **BETTER SPECIAL EFFECTS**.



"IT WENT AROUND BELCHING OUT SWARMS OF FLYING INSECTS. IT WAS LIKE A PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS.



"...**CARNIVOROUS LOCUSTS**..."





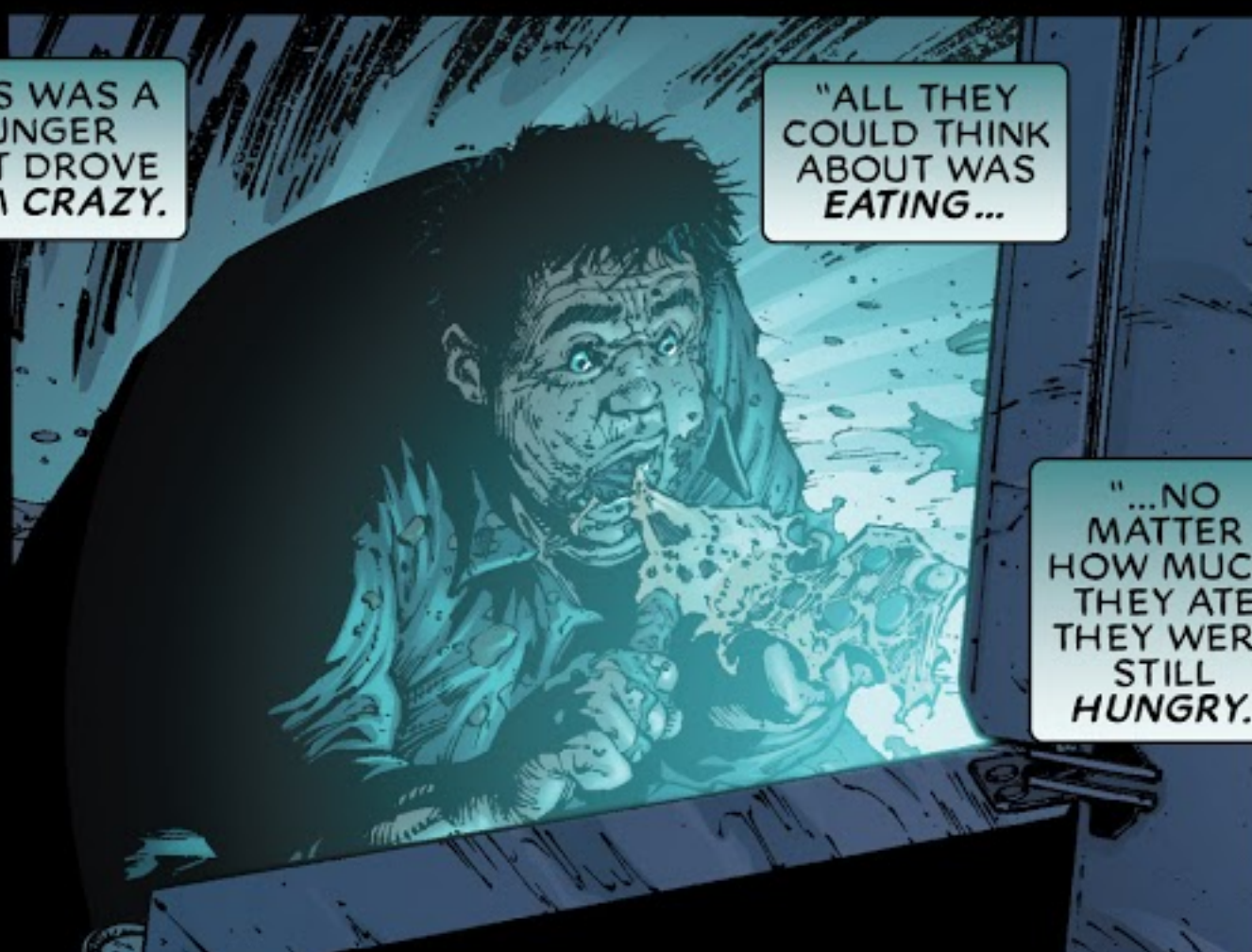
"THEN THERE WAS **FAMINE**. THAT WAS THE WORST..."



"...WHERE IT PASSED BY, THE PEOPLE BEGAN TO FEEL HUNGER. NOT THE KIND OF HUNGER YOU FEEL WHEN YOU MISS A MEAL."



"THIS WAS A HUNGER THAT DROVE THEM CRAZY."



"ALL THEY COULD THINK ABOUT WAS **EATING**..."



"...NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY ATE THEY WERE STILL **HUNGRY**."



"THEY STARVED TO **DEATH**... WASTED AWAY EVEN THOUGH THEIR BELLIES WERE STUFFED..."



"IT TOOK THEM A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT THIS WHOLE *HORSEMEN THING*. BY THE TIME *WAR* MADE AN APPEARANCE SOME PREACHER WAS PUTTING A NAME TO THEM.

"HE CAME ON THE TV, FREAKING OUT, CRYING LIKE A BABY, TELLING US TO REPENT OUR SINS.

"STARTED CONFESSING A FEW SINS OF HIS OWN. THEY CUT HIM OFF WHEN HE STARTED IN ON THE CHOIRBOYS...

"THE THING WITH *WAR* WAS THE SOUND OF ITS VOICE.

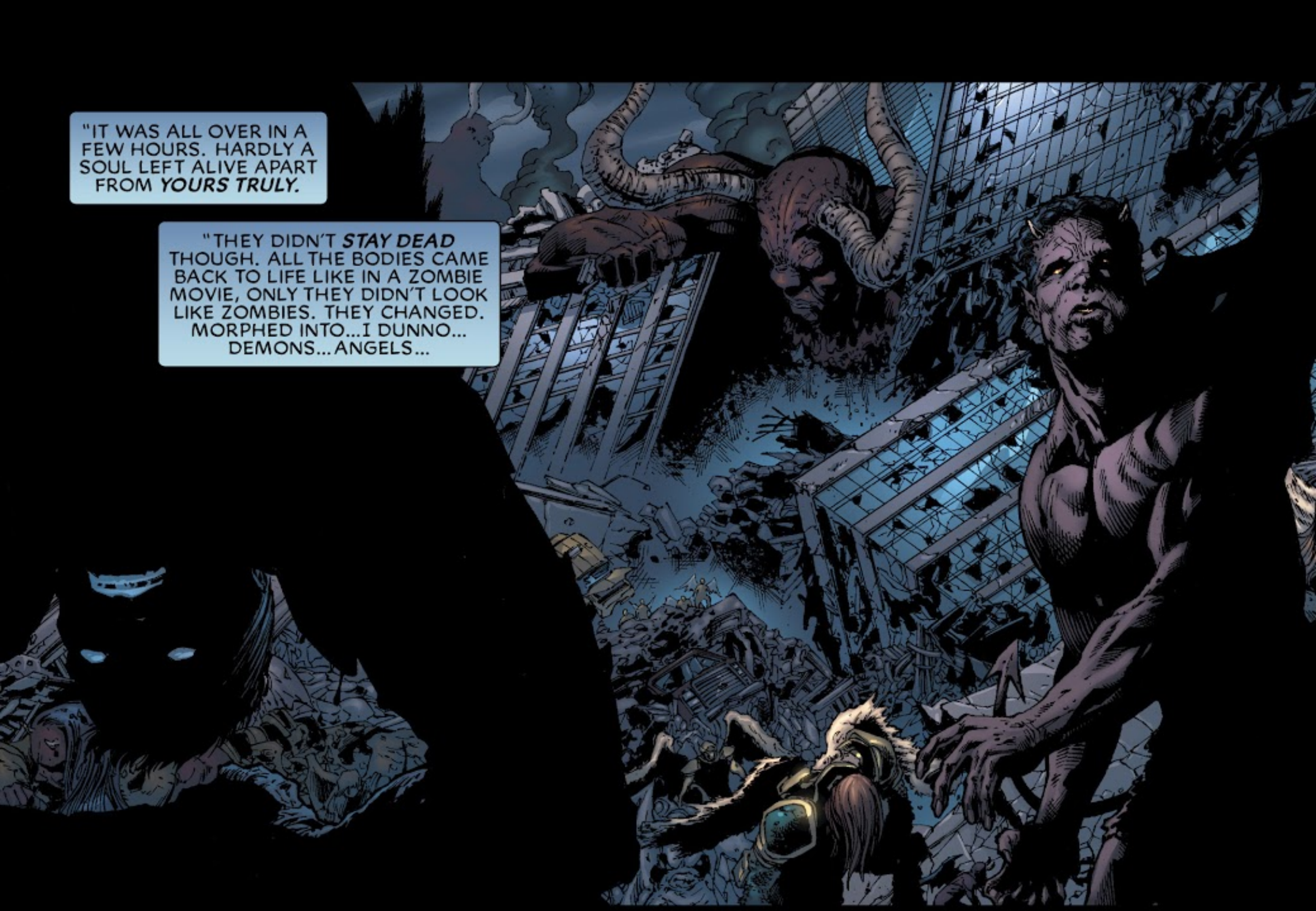
"WHOEVER HEARD THAT ROAR REGRESSED INTO PRIMITIVE CREATURES.

"THESE *THINGS* WERE LIKE KILLING MACHINES. THEY HUNTED IN *PACKS*, TRACKING DOWN GROUPS OF SURVIVORS BY THEIR SCENT.

"YOU COULDN'T *FIGHT* THEM. NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU KILLED...

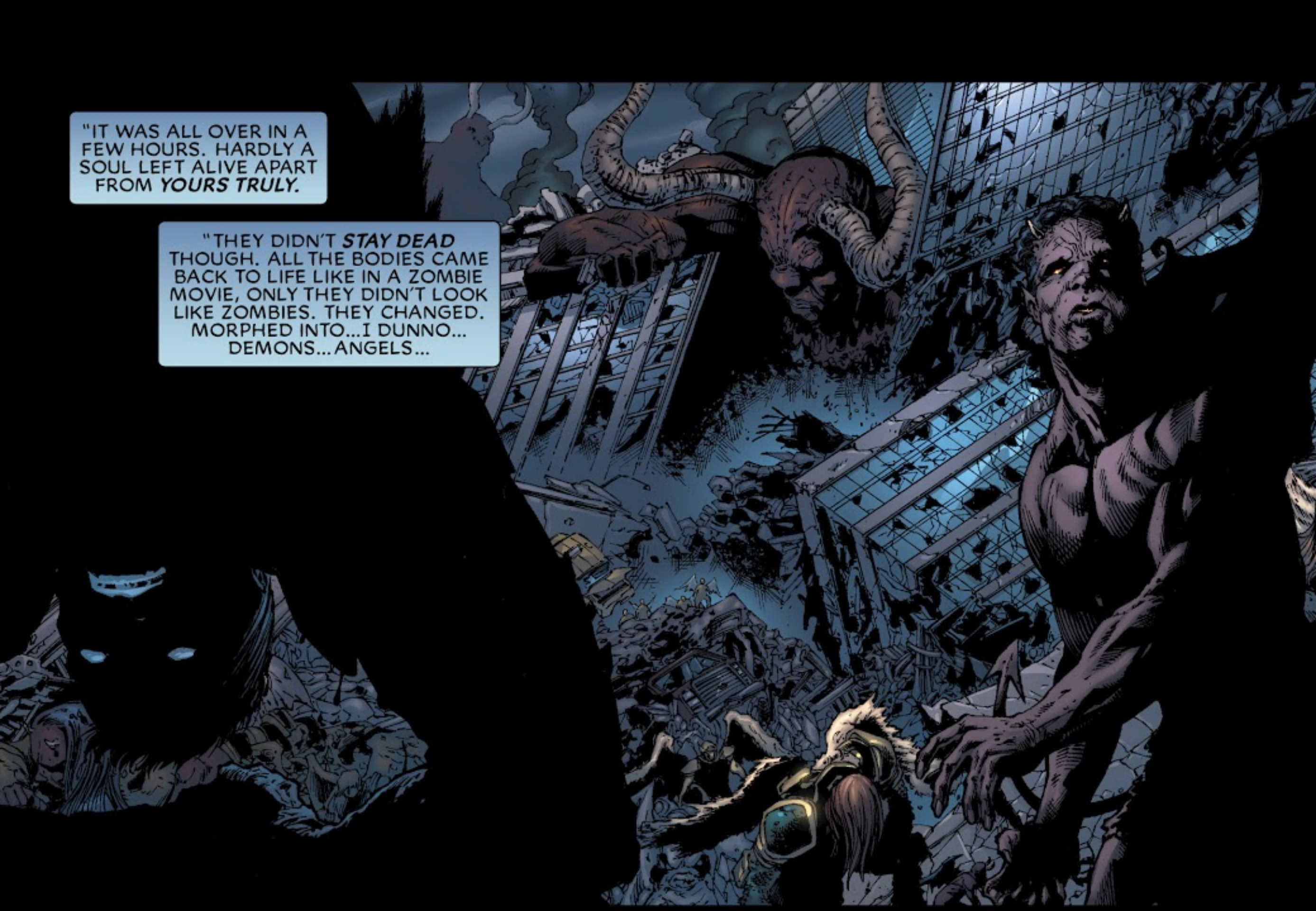
"...THEY JUST KEPT *COMING.*"





"IT WAS ALL OVER IN A FEW HOURS. HARDLY A SOUL LEFT ALIVE APART FROM *YOURS TRULY*.

"THEY DIDN'T *STAY DEAD* THOUGH. ALL THE BODIES CAME BACK TO LIFE LIKE IN A ZOMBIE MOVIE, ONLY THEY DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ZOMBIES. THEY CHANGED. MORPHED INTO...I DUNNO... DEMONS...ANGELS...



"...THEN THE WHOLE MASS OF THEM UPPED AND LEFT...

"...HEADED WEST..."



WHAT ABOUT THE HORSEMEN? WHERE DID THEY GO?

EAST. STRAIGHT INTO THE OCEAN.



"MUST BE  
IN *EUROPE*  
BY NOW.

"I ALWAYS  
WANTED TO  
SEE EUROPE.  
LONDON,  
PARIS, BERLIN,  
ROME. ALL  
THAT HISTORY,  
Y'KNOW. THE  
CULTURE..."

"GUESS I LEFT IT  
TOO LATE."

YOU SAY THE  
RESURRECTED DEAD  
WENT WEST?

LIKE FORTY-  
NINERS HEADING  
FOR THE GOLD  
FIELDS.

HEY, YOU  
GONNA  
LEAVE ME  
HERE?

YOU  
WOULDN'T LIKE  
WHERE I'M  
GOING.

STAY SAFE,  
GRAN'PA.





*"As Spawn flew westwards into the world's last sunset, he saw the teeming millions flooding across the plains of Kansas and Colorado."*



*"The risen dead marched silently towards Armageddon, like gladiators heading to a great arena."*

*"Though they passed within yards of one another, neither side gave a sign to acknowledge the other's existence."*



*"When they came to the place where the land fell away into the ocean, the armies of heaven and hell split into two columns, each traversing a vast stone bridge to the newly-formed island where the Final Battle was to take place."*



*"The bridges were wider than any built by human hand, yet they could not accommodate the throng as they pressed forward, thrusting one another aside in their eagerness, so that thousands fell to be swallowed by the churning waters of the once Pacific Ocean."*



*"Flying over the ruined city, Spawn saw a familiar figure battling a score of demon warriors, each of whom was ten times her height."*



*"They never stood a chance."*



**ZERA!**

WELL,  
IT'S ABOUT  
TIME...

TO BE CONTINUED...





# SPAWN®



PHILIP  
JAN-06  
BRIAN:.

162



DIGITAL  
EDITION

[SPAWN.COM](http://SPAWN.COM)



"On the last day, the risen Spawn went in search of his two great enemies, God and Satan.



"As he passed over the island of Angels, he came upon the seraph, Zera the Mad and he knew that the time had come to do battle with God's favorite warrior."



I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS.

DO YOU HEAR IT? MY HEART IS POUNDING LIKE A **BRIDE** ON HER WEDDING NIGHT.

I EXPECTED YOU TO BE WITH YOUR LORD AND MASTER. WHERE IS HE, ZERA? WHERE IS YOUR GOD?



I'LL BE JOINING HIM WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU, HELLSPAWN. THE REAL BATTLE IS **THERE**, OUTSIDE THE CITY.

DON'T YOU LOVE THE SCENT OF BLOOD WAFING ON THE BREEZE?

THE **TASTE** OF IT.



THE ONLY BLOOD I WANT TO TASTE IS YOURS.







COME  
ON THEN,  
HELLSPAWN.  
COME TO  
*ME.*



**RRAAAARRRGH!!**



YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
FORGIVE  
MY PET.

GOD CREATED  
THIS AVATAR TO  
CONTAIN MY ANGER.  
HE IS THE LIVING  
PERSONIFICATION  
OF *PURE RAGE.*



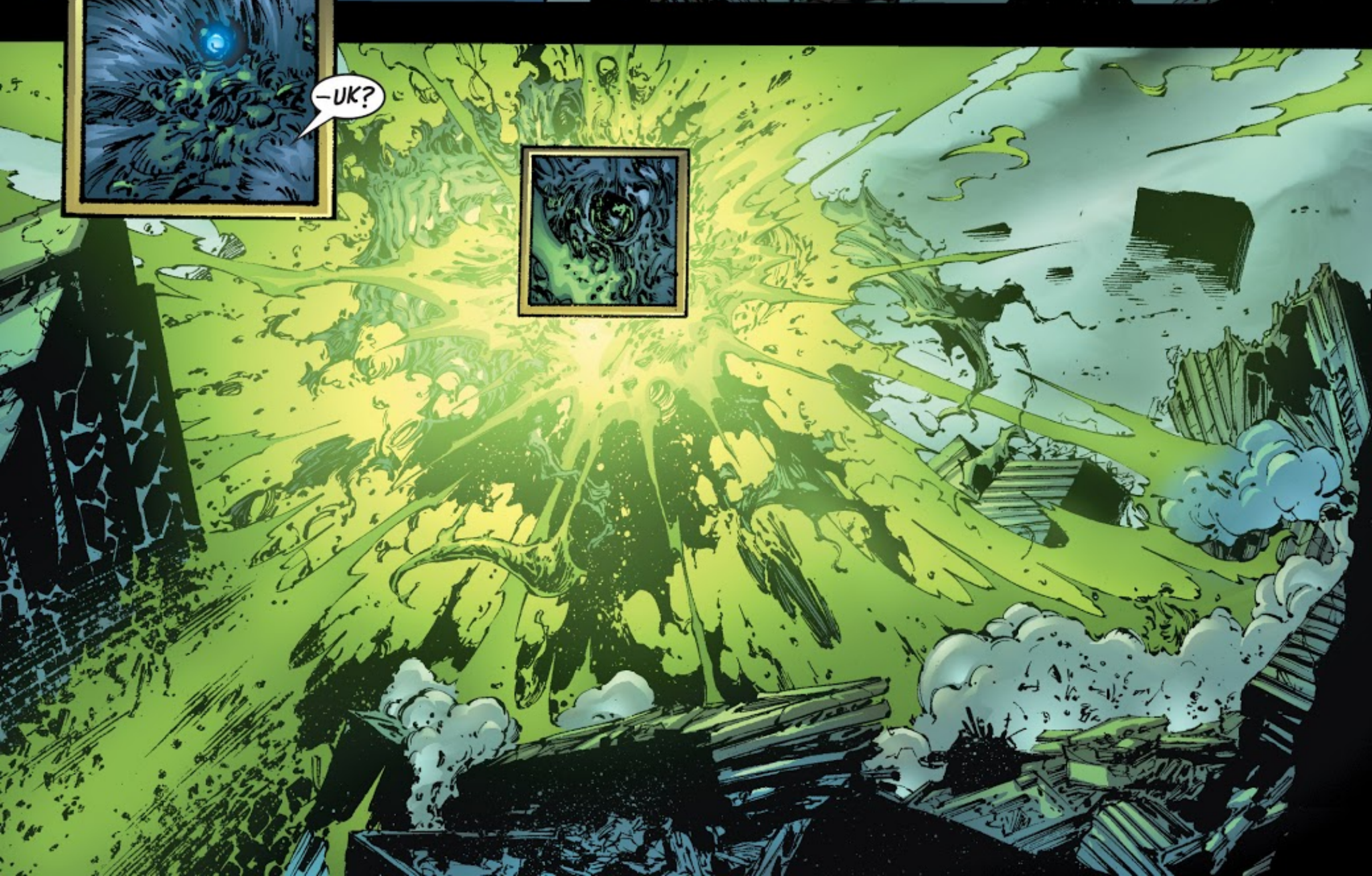
I KNOW  
PLENTY ABOUT  
RAGE.

YOU  
KEEP  
IT INSIDE,  
IT DRIVES  
YOU  
CRAZY.

YOU  
HAVE TO  
LEARN TO  
LET IT  
OUT.











**NO!**  
YOU TWICE  
DEFECATED  
PIECE OF  
OFFAL!



ARE  
YOU MAD  
AT ME,  
ZERA?  
IS THE  
RAGE  
FLOODING  
BACK?



ARE YOU  
LOSING  
CONTROL?



**YEEEEAAAARRRGH!**



WAS  
THAT YOUR  
BEST  
SHOT?

WHAT  
ARE  
YOU?



IT'S NOT  
WHAT I AM  
THAT SHOULD  
TERRIFY  
YOU.

IT'S  
WHAT I'M  
BECOMING.





TERRIFY ME? HAH!

FEAR HAS NO MORE MEANING TO ME THAN STARLIGHT TO A BLIND MAN.



THEN I GUESS IT'S TIME I STOPPED HOLDING BACK.



HAD ENOUGH?

AKK-- IS--HAK--IS THAT--?



KAF--  
IS THAT THE  
BEST YOU  
CAN DO?

GIVE  
IT UP,  
ZERA.

NEVER!

I'VE  
SURVIVED A  
THOUSAND  
BATTLES.

EVEN WITH  
EVERY BONE  
SMASHED TO  
SPLINTERS...WITH  
EVERY ORGAN  
RUPTURED...

...I'LL  
STILL  
COME  
AFTER  
YOU...

TEN  
THOUSAND  
BLOWS WILL  
NOT STOP  
ME.

ONE.  
JUST  
ONE  
MORE.





CAN YOU  
FEEL IT ZERA? MY  
NECROPLASMIC FLESH,  
CRAWLING LIKE  
WORMS THROUGH  
YOUR GUTS?

SPREADING  
THROUGH YOUR  
BODY...

...PENETRATING  
EVERY MILLIMETER  
OF TISSUE, EVERY  
ORGAN...

...THERE'S  
THE LIVER,  
THE COLON... I'M  
IN YOUR LUNGS,  
ZERA, I'M IN  
YOUR STERILE  
WOMB...

AH... THERE... FEEL  
YOUR HEART, ZERA. YOU WERE  
RIGHT. IT'S BEATING HARD...  
PUMPING... PUMPING...

YEEE-A  
AAAH  
HH

WHAT-  
DID-  
YOU-  
DO-?

I  
EVISCERATED  
YOU.  
YOU'RE  
DEAD.

KUH-  
CAN'T  
DIE---

---HE  
WON'T  
LET  
ME---

YOU'LL  
NEVER  
BE FREE  
OF ME.





IMPRESSIVE.  
IF THERE WERE  
ANYONE LEFT TO  
TAKE MY WAGER, I  
THINK I WOULD  
BET ON YOUR  
HELLSPAWN.

THERE WAS NEVER  
ANY DOUBT. SPAWN WILL  
TRIUMPH. THIS HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN *HIS* DESTINY.

THE DESTINY I  
HAVE MAPPED FOR  
CENTURIES.

BUT YOU DID NOT FORESEE SATAN'S RETURN. NEITHER  
OF US WAS PREPARED FOR ARMAGEDDON.

I ADAPT,  
MY FRIEND.  
YOU SEE HOW  
EASILY I  
REGAINED  
SATAN'S TRUST.  
I CHOSE THIS  
BATTLE-  
GROUND.

I GUIDE  
EVERY  
HAND.

MY PLEDGE  
TO YOU WILL BE  
HONORED. THE  
EARTH WILL BE  
YOURS.

I HAVE  
NO INTEREST  
IN A BARREN  
WORLD,  
MAMMON.



I NEED TO  
**FEED.**

YOU'LL HAVE WHAT YOU  
NEED. MANKIND HAS ALWAYS  
FEARED ARMAGEDDON AS THE  
END OF ALL THINGS...



"...BUT IT IS  
ONLY THE  
BEGINNING..."





"Nearby, another great battle was coming to an end."

"Though the Enraptured were formed from the good and pure of heart who had never raised a hand in anger, yet they had become possessed by the fire of war."

"They had fought against Hell's fiercest demons until only two warriors were left standing."

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU FALL?

"She did not choose this fate, but in all her life she had never fled from a battle. Nor would she falter now."

AAAAIIIEEE





*"The air was filled with the cries of war, rising from every corner of the embattled isle, but that one scream drew Spawn from his flight."*



*"He scanned the field of lifeless corpses with a heavy heart, knowing already what he would find."*



**NO!**

AL,  
IS---  
IS THAT  
YOU?









OH AL.  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT.



GOD. HEAVEN.  
ALL LIES. HE MADE  
US FIGHT... THAT  
THING WHO CLAIMED  
HE WAS GOD.

HE GAVE ME  
BACK MY EYES  
SO I COULD  
SEE *THIS!*



BUT LOOK  
AT YOU, AL. LOOK  
AT THOSE LOVELY  
WINGS.

AT LEAST  
I WAS RIGHT  
ABOUT YOU.

I'M SORRY  
GRANNY. I WISH  
YOU COULD HAVE  
HAD YOUR  
PARADISE.



IT'S STILL  
THERE, AL.  
BEYOND  
THIS. THERE  
HAS TO BE  
A HEAVEN  
SOME-  
WHERE.



THERE  
HAS TO  
BE.



MY EYES  
HAVE SEEN THE  
GLORY... OF...  
THE... COMING...  
OF... THE...  
LORD...



REST IN  
PEACE,  
GRANNY.



REST IN  
PEACE.





*"To the west, a still bloodier conflict raged."*

*"The Hellepawm of all the ages, risen at last. They had waited centuries, millennia. The oldest among them had seen entire ages pass, his pact with Malebolgia sealed with nodes and grunts."*

*"They were united by two things. Their bloodlust..."*

*"...and their hatred for the one who had broken his bond..."*

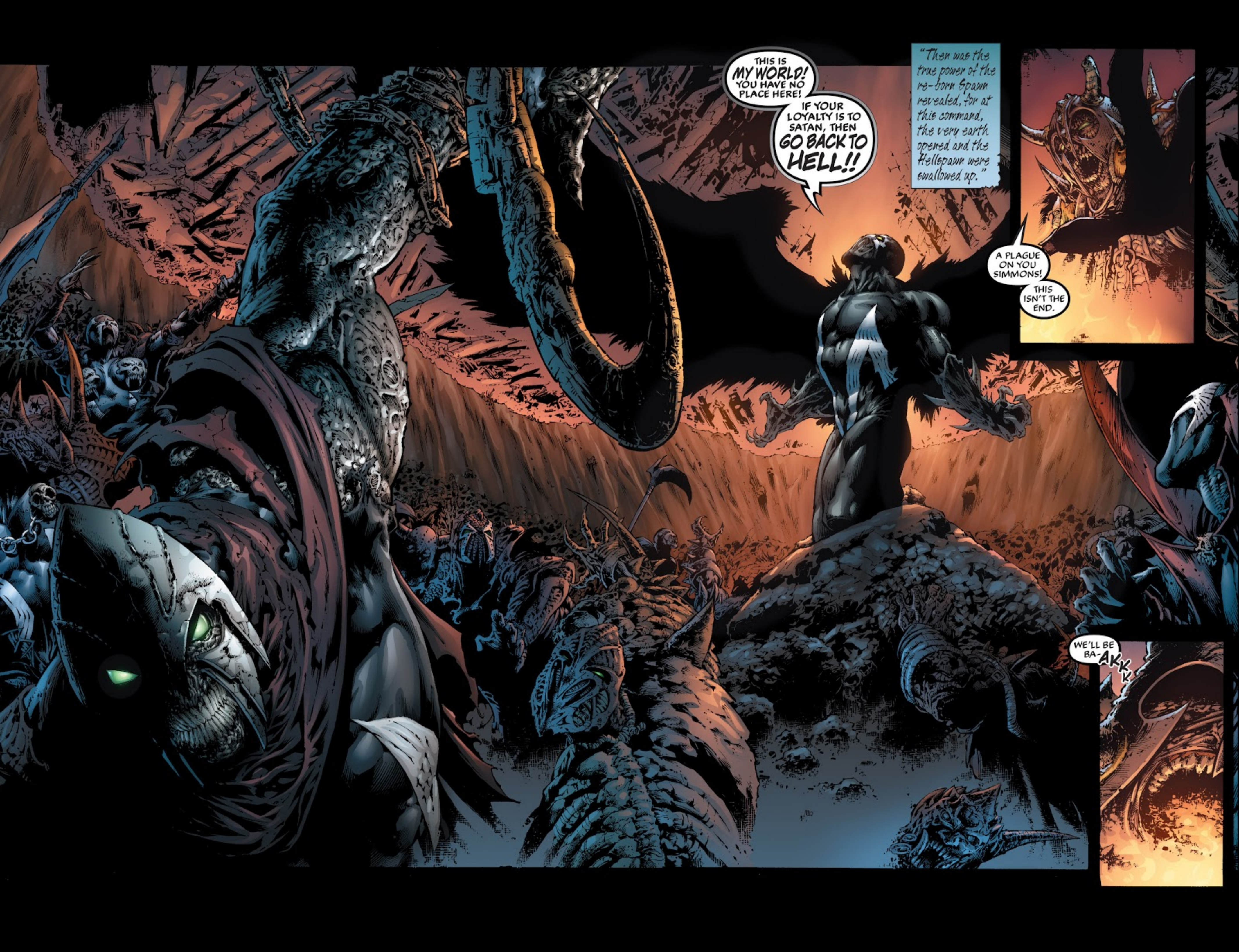
BROTHERS!  
IT'S HIM!

THE  
TRAITOR,  
SIMMONS!

I'M  
NOT  
HERE  
TO  
FIGHT  
WITH  
YOU.

YOU  
MADE  
YOUR  
CHOICES.  
I MADE  
MINE.





THIS IS  
**MY WORLD!**  
YOU HAVE NO  
PLACE HERE!

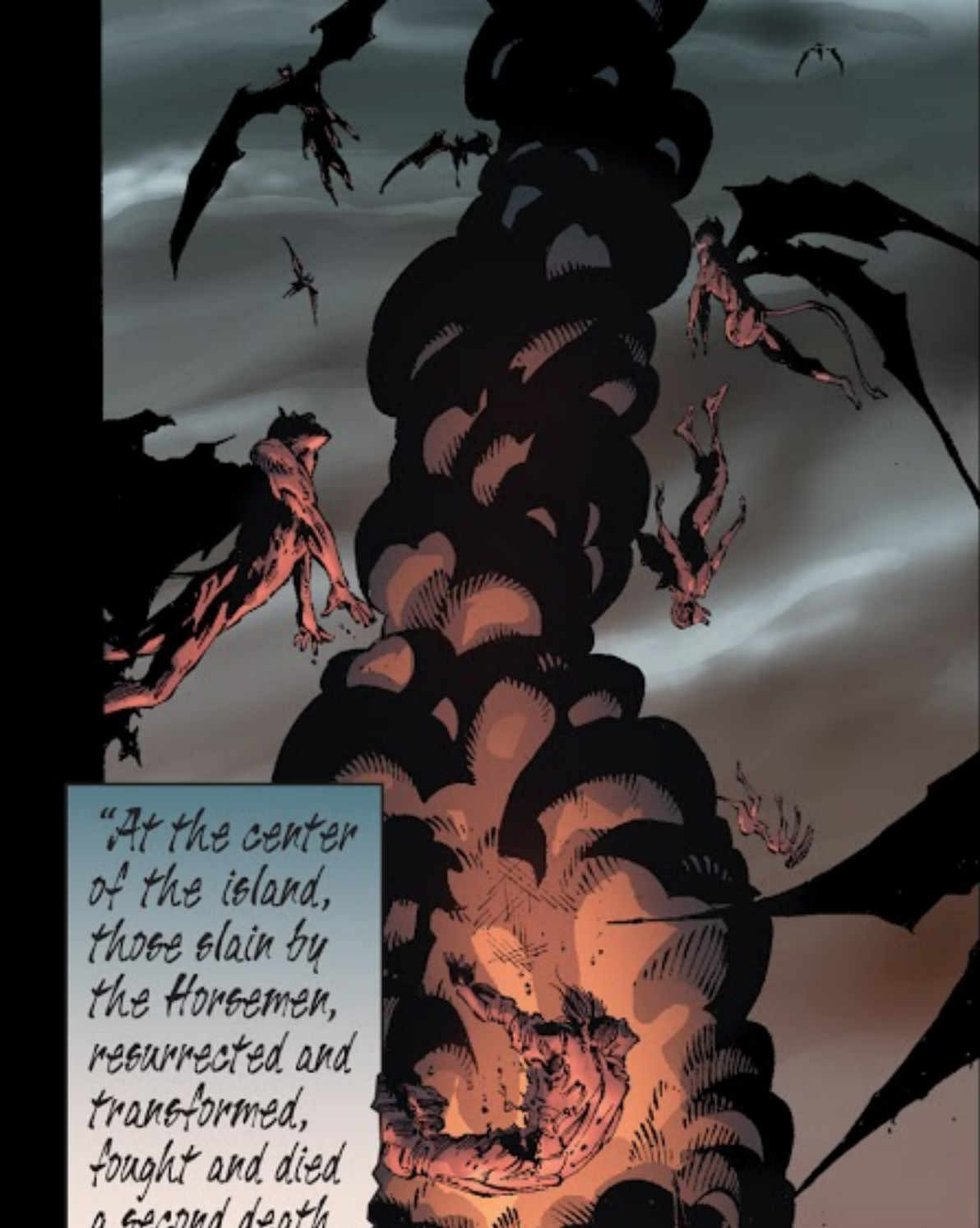
IF YOUR  
LOYALTY IS TO  
SATAN, THEN  
**GO BACK TO  
HELL!!**

*"Then was the  
true power of the  
re-born Spawn  
revealed, for at  
this command,  
the very earth  
opened and the  
Hellspawn were  
swallowed up."*

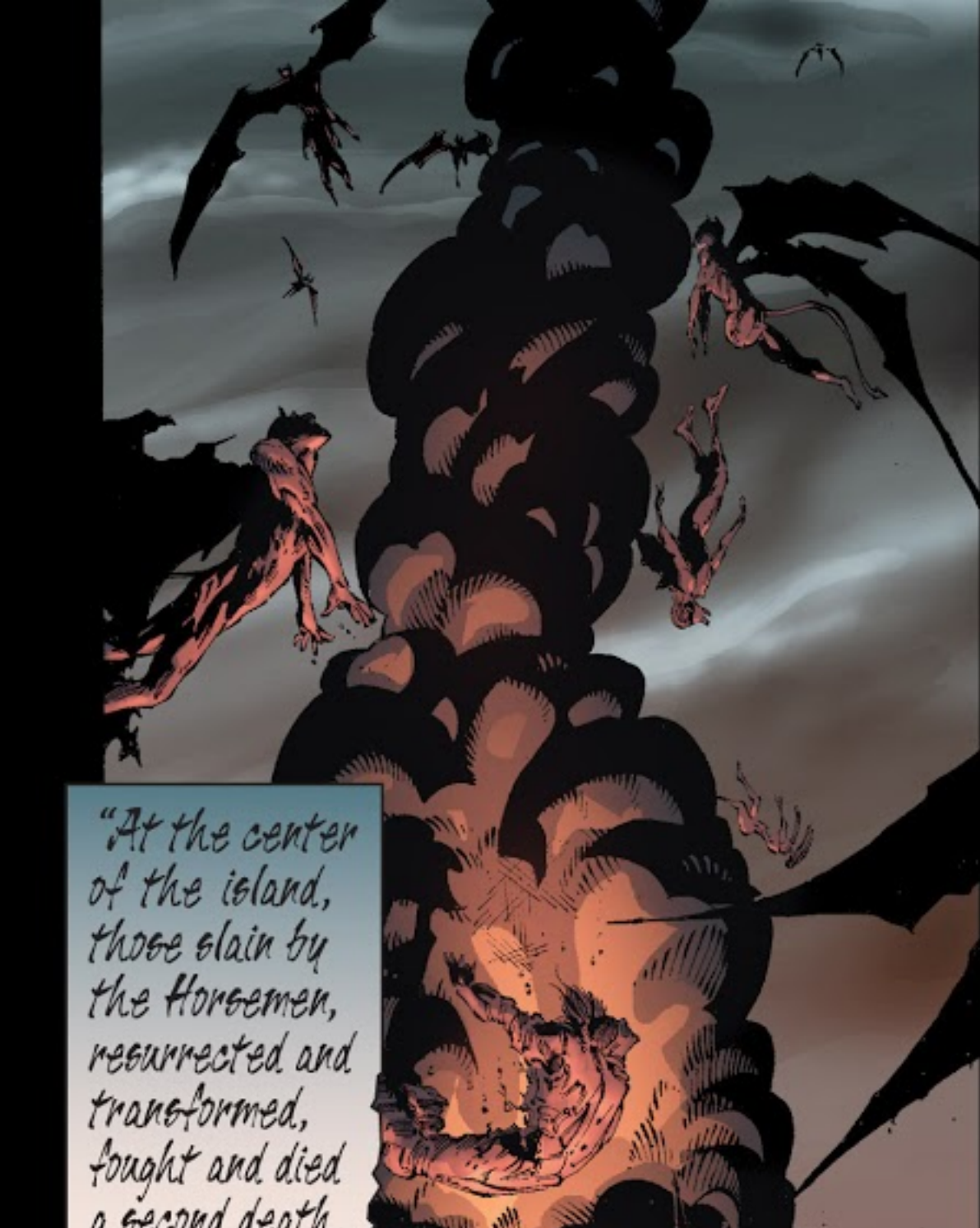
A PLAGUE  
ON YOU  
SIMMONS!  
THIS  
ISN'T THE  
END.

WE'LL BE  
BA-**AKK**  
K

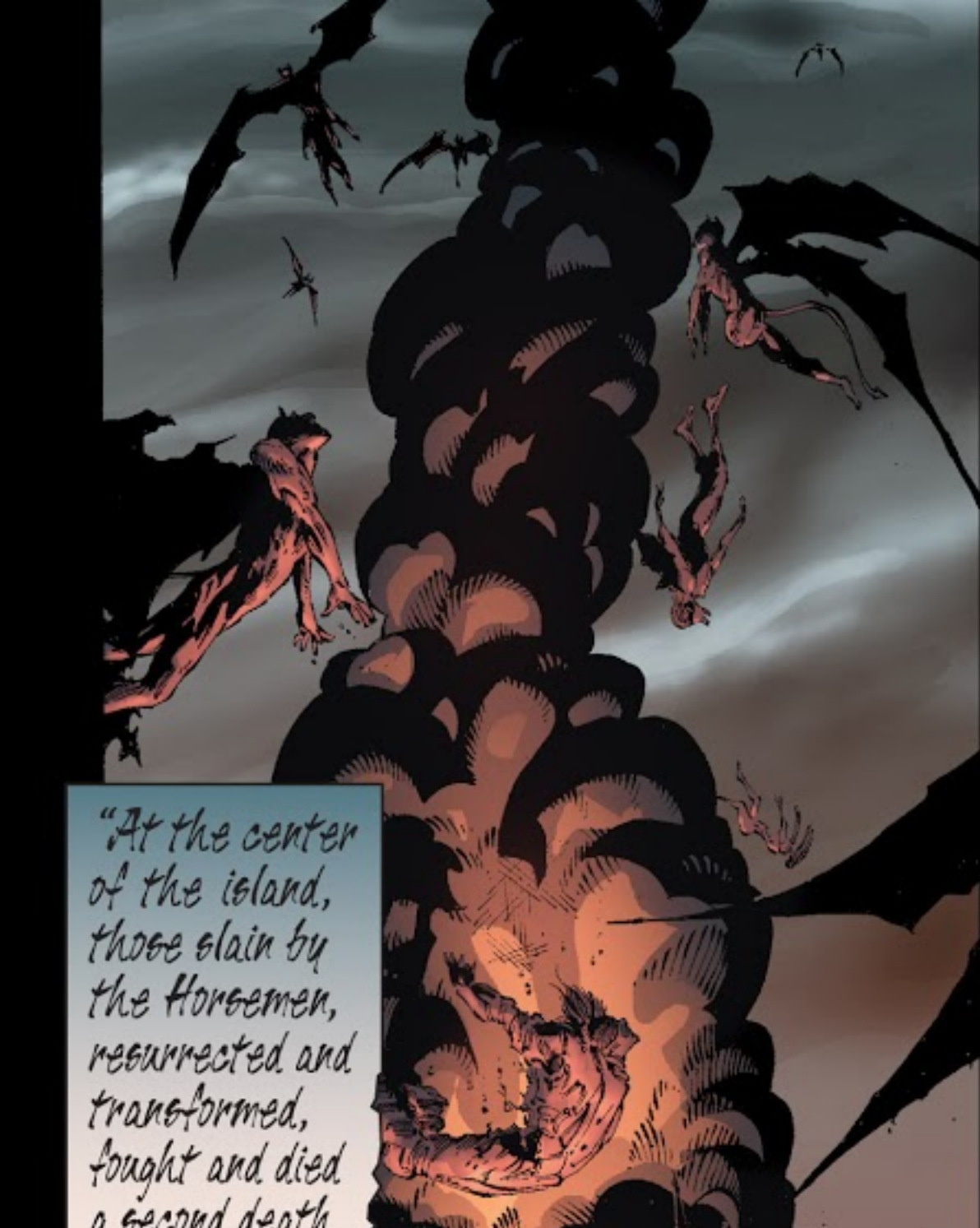




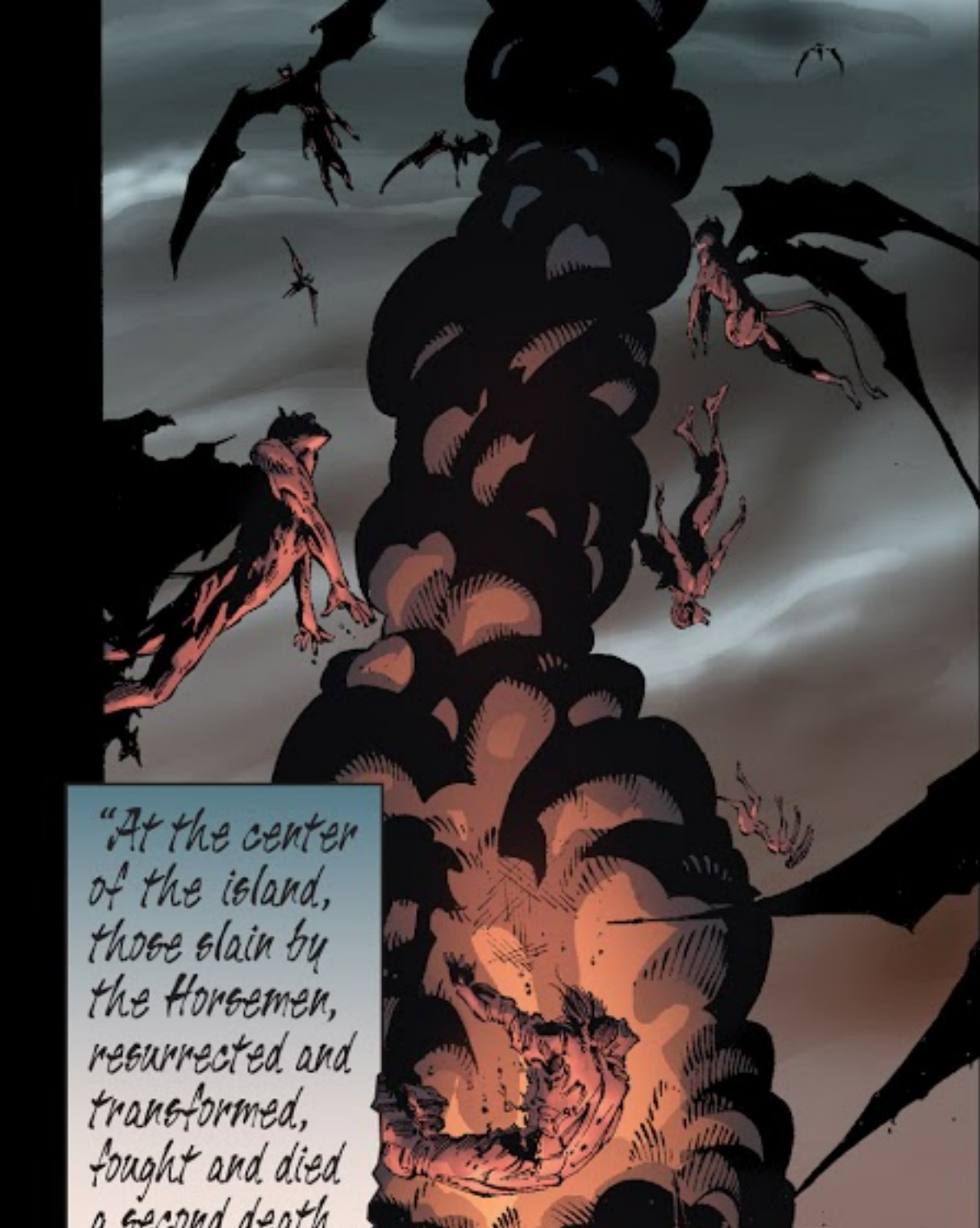
*"As fast as the dead  
were harvested, they  
were replenished."*



*"At the center  
of the island,  
those slain by  
the Horsemen,  
resurrected and  
transformed,  
fought and died  
a second death."*



*"Their fallen  
bodies were tossed  
on the pyre, feeding  
the black column of  
sulphurous smoke  
that turned the  
skies to hellish  
night."*



*"From every  
corner of  
the Earth they  
swarmed, with  
no purpose  
but mindless  
slaughter."*



NOW  
ISN'T THAT  
A BEAUTIFUL  
SIGHT?







SOMETHING'S MISSING.

WHERE ARE MY HELLSPAWN?!



GREAT SATAN, I BEG TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HELLSPAWN ARE GONE.

THE EARTH SWALLOWED THEM. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT BACK TO HELL.

**GONE?!**

YOU'RE TELLING ME THOSE PATHETIC ASS-KISSING BAPTISTS HAVE BEATEN MY ELITE-



IT WAS NOT THE ENRAPTURED.

IT WAS A WINGED HELLSPAWN. HE CLAIMS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE EARTH.

YOU'RE LYING! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I - I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.



WITH YOUR OWN EYES?!

**AAHHH!**



WELL YOU KNOW WHAT...?

I DON'T LIKE YOUR EYES!



I'M BORED.  
THIS BATTLE IS  
TOO EQUAL.

WHERE  
THE HELL IS  
ZERA?



MISSING  
YOUR FAVORITE  
WARRIOR?

SHE'S  
RIGHT  
HERE.

Y-YOUR  
PARDON,  
LORD.



HE HAS  
GROWN  
STRONGER.  
HE TUH -  
TOOK ME BY  
SURPRISE.



THIS PLANET  
IS UNDER MY  
PROTECTION NOW!  
YOU WILL RELEASE THE  
RESURRECTED ARMIES  
FROM YOUR CONTROL  
AND THEN YOU WILL  
LEAVE THE EARTH  
FOREVER!



COME  
BACK  
HERE YOU  
FREAK!

MY LORD,  
MAY WE MAKE A  
SUGGESTION?



*"The reasons for the feud between God and Satan are unrecorded, lost in the mist of History. What is certain is that for countless millennia they had agreed on nothing until that moment."*



HEY BITCH-BOY!

I THINK **WE** HAVE A PROBLEM.



*"As Spawn watched the siblings conferring, he knew that the time of reckoning was at hand."*

*"Their truce would not last, but for a brief time, their loathing for one another was subsumed by their hatred for this troublesome upstart."*



TAKE HIM! BURN THE TRAITOR! TEAR HIM APART!!

**KILL SPAWN!!**



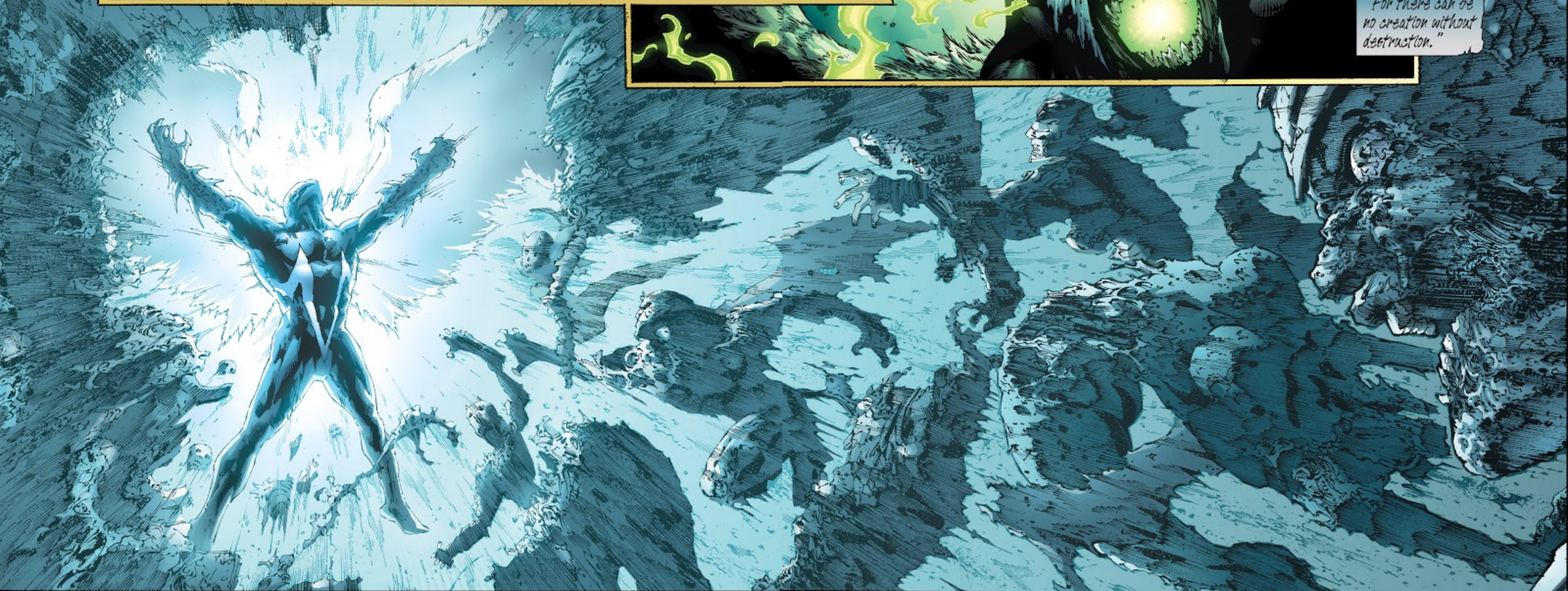
*"Then every creature rose against him..."*



*"With a heavy heart,  
Spawn summoned the  
power bestowed on  
him by the Mother  
of Creation."*



*"For there can be  
no creation without  
destruction."*





*"When he looked about  
him and saw what he  
had done, Spawn wept.*

*"For all the  
world was  
desolation..."*

*"...and  
Mankind was  
no more."*






# SPAWN®




Capullo






*"And so it was  
that in the last  
days, the Four  
Horsemen strode  
the Earth."*

*"No corner of the  
globe escaped  
their destruction.  
Neither the  
greatest of cities..."*



*"...nor the  
lowliest  
village..."*



*"...and as the people died,  
so did they rise again, their  
bodies restored to a grotesque  
semblance of life."*





"And then the horror truly began, for the resurrected bodies were transformed, taking on the aspects of demons and dark angels, the monstrous forms required by their ancient masters.

"Then every one of these new-made warriors rose up and slouched in their billions towards the Final Battle.

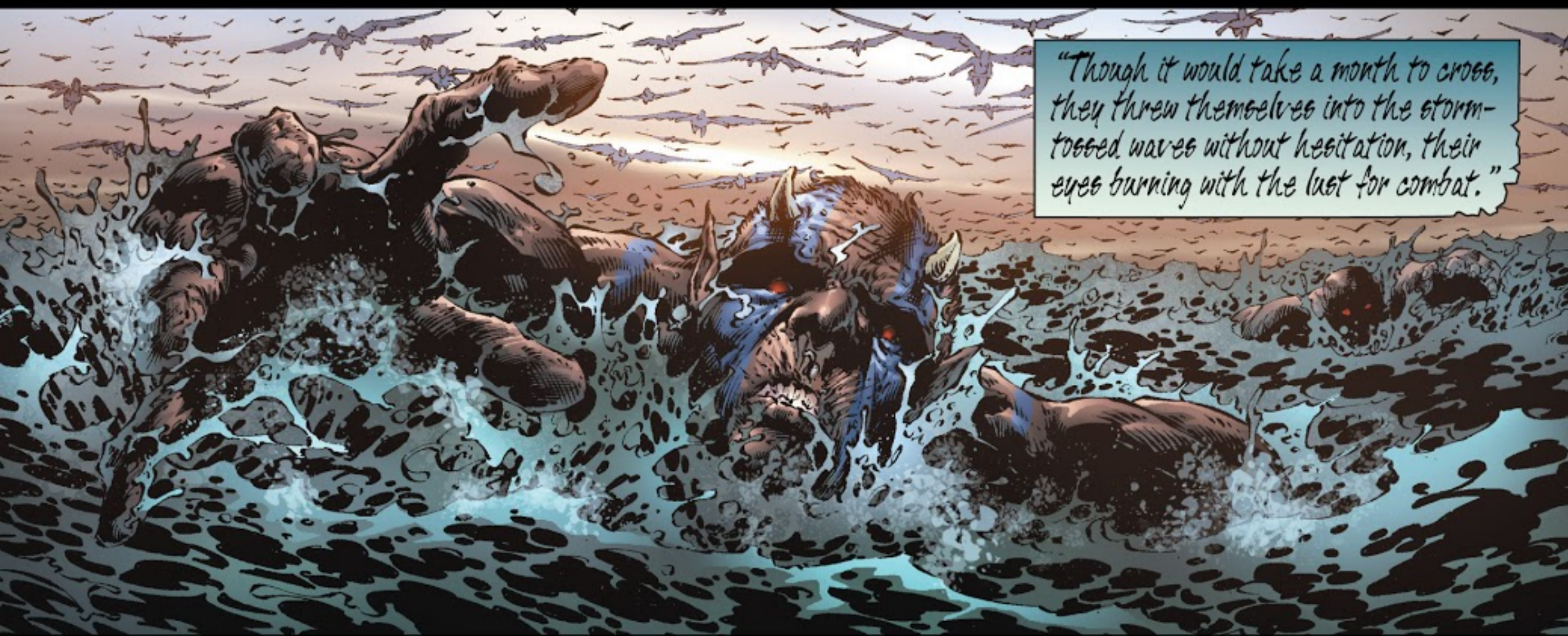
"From the tiniest inhabited Pacific atoll and from the wastelands of Siberia they came.

"Those with wings took to the air, turning the skies to night with their shadowy flights.

"The rest walked, never tiring, never stopping for rest or sustenance.

"Nothing stopped them or slowed their passage. They marched through rain and sandstorm, across mountain and desert.

"Even the greatest ocean was no barrier to them.



"Though it would take a month to cross, they threw themselves into the storm-tossed waves without hesitation, their eyes burning with the lust for combat."



"Their destination was the former city of Los Angeles, ripped from the North American landmass at the behest of Mammon to form an island battleground."

"Here the two armies met to do battle for their liege lords God and Satan, the two brothers now trapped in the frail human bodies of the twins Jake and Katie, born of the woman Wanda Blake."

"Their true names were Jehovah, Yahweh, the Mighty God, Creator of all Mankind..."

"...and Satan, Lucifer, Lord of Light and Master of Chaos."

"For millennia they had planned this war known as Armageddon, when their hatred for one another would find release."

"But now their plans were undone by a third force, the Hellspawn Al Simmons, who had died twice over and was risen with power greater than any man had known. The power of a God."

"Faced with the combined forces of the two armies, Spawn unleashed his power and the armies fell before him."



*"There was the sound of a rushing wind and a blinding white light spread out across the world..."*



*"The light burned without heat, obliterating all it touched..."*



*"...and the light consumed the Earth..."*

*"...and the world was laid waste. Not one living thing remained, neither man nor beast. Not one bird, or insect, nor even one blade of grass."*

*"The Earth was without life."*





"Then the  
fury of God  
and Satan  
knew no  
limits..."

RRRRRAAAAAHH!!!

I DON'T  
BELIEVE THIS!  
OUR ARMIES  
ARE GONE.

ALL OF  
THEM...

LOOK  
AT THE  
TREACHEROUS  
BASTARD,  
WEEPING LIKE  
A BABY.

HAH-  
UH-  
HAH

I'LL  
GIVE HIM  
SOMETHING  
TO CRY  
ABOUT!

NO, WAIT.  
HE ISN'T  
CRYING.

AH HA  
HA-  
HA-  
HAA

YOU  
THINK  
THIS IS  
FUNNY YOU  
DICKLESS  
GIMP?! YOU  
SAID YOU  
WANTED TO  
SAVE YOUR  
PRECIOUS  
HUMAN  
RACE.

IS *THIS*  
HOW YOU  
SAVE  
THEM?!

YOU WANT  
TO KNOW WHY I'M  
LAUGHING?

YOU  
PLANNED  
THIS FOR  
THOUSANDS  
OF  
YEARS.

THEY WERE  
ALREADY DEAD.  
NOTHING BUT  
EMPTY SHELLS,  
NO BETTER THAN  
ZOMBIES.

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
SAVED  
THEM  
FROM.

YOU CREATED THE  
HUMAN RACE. BRED  
US TO BE CANNON  
FODDER FOR YOUR  
APOCALYPSE.





WHAT WAS THE PLAN? ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF WAR?

I TOOK IT ALL AWAY FROM YOU! THAT'S WHAT'S FUNNY.

IT'S ALL A BIG JOKE AND I JUST DELIVERED THE PUNCH LINE.



HOW DID YOU DO THIS?!!

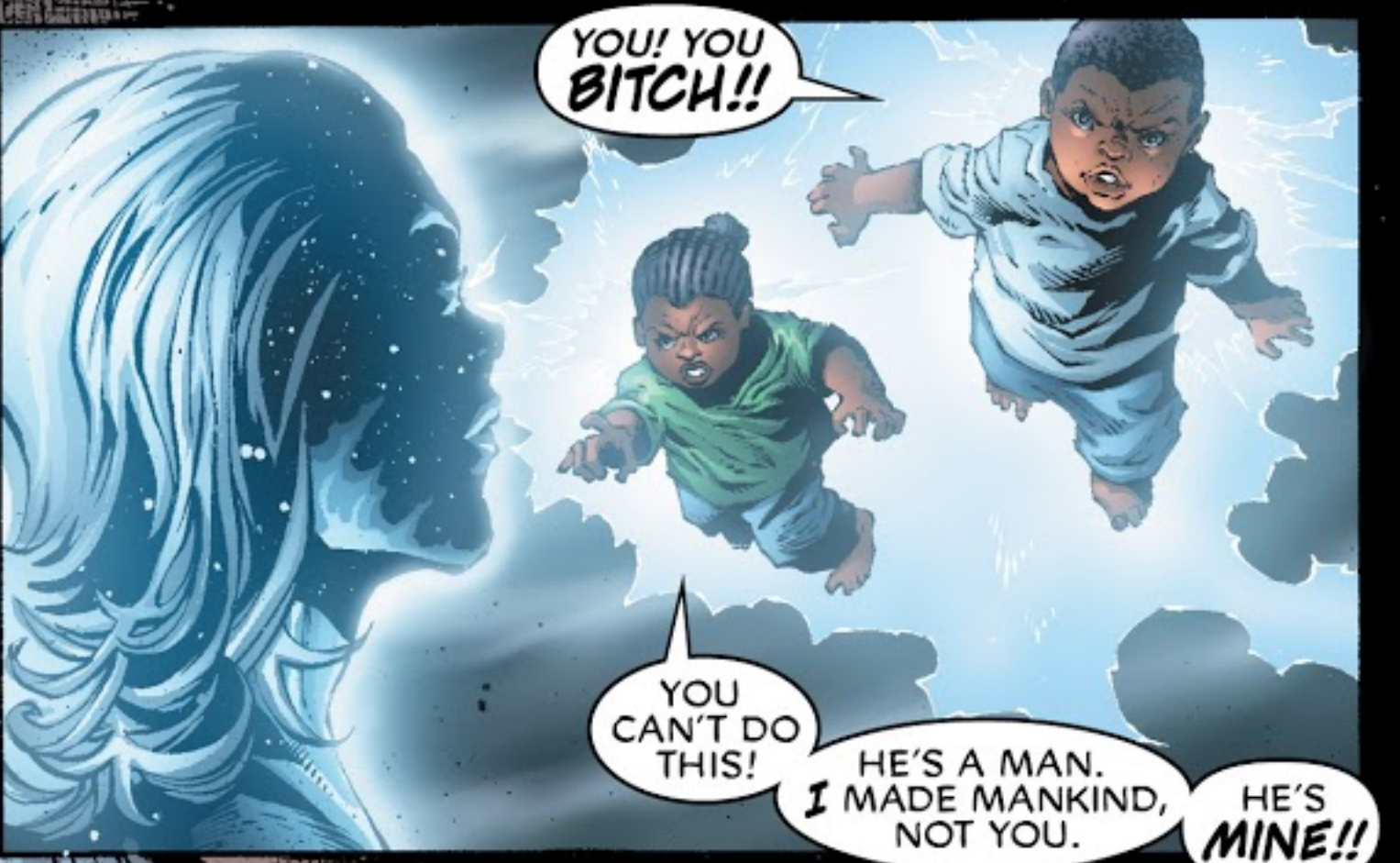
YOU'RE JUST A HELL-SPAWN!

YOU'RE **NOTHING!**

HE'S WHAT I MADE HIM.



AL SIMMONS HAS EARNED THIS POWER. THROUGH HIS DEATH AND SUFFERING HE HAS PROVEN HIMSELF WORTHY.



YOU! YOU BITCH!!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

HE'S A MAN. I MADE MANKIND, NOT YOU.

HE'S **MINE!!**



**I DO WHAT I WILL.**





THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
YOU CAN  
DO...

THEY  
LOOK TOO  
MUCH LIKE  
WANDA IN THOSE  
BODIES. THEY'RE  
AN INSULT TO  
THE HUMAN  
RACE.

LET'S  
SEE WHAT  
THESE  
SCUMBAGS  
REALLY  
LOOK  
LIKE.

AS YOU  
WISH. BUT  
BE CAREFUL,  
SPAWN. IF I  
RESTORE THEIR  
BODIES, I  
RESTORE  
EVERYTHING  
ELSE.

THEIR  
APPETITE FOR  
DESTRUCTION  
IS BEYOND  
ANYTHING  
YOU COULD  
IMAGINE.

OH YES.  
THAT IS *SO*  
MUCH  
BETTER!

NOW  
SIMMONS,  
YOU WILL SEE  
THE POWER  
AND THE  
GLORY.





COME ON  
LITTLE MAN. YOU  
WANTED TO TAKE  
ON GOD AND THE  
DEVIL.

NOW'S  
YOUR  
CHANCE.

SO THAT  
WE CAN BEAT  
THE CRAP OUT  
OF EACH OTHER  
FOR ALL  
ETERNITY?

I DON'T  
THINK SO.



TAKE  
A LOOK  
AROUND. YOUR  
ARMIES ARE  
GONE.

I'VE  
ALREADY  
WON.



DON'T  
TURN YOUR  
BACK ON  
ME!!

OR  
WHAT?  
YOU THINK  
I CARE  
ANY MORE  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
TO ME?

COME  
ON THEN,

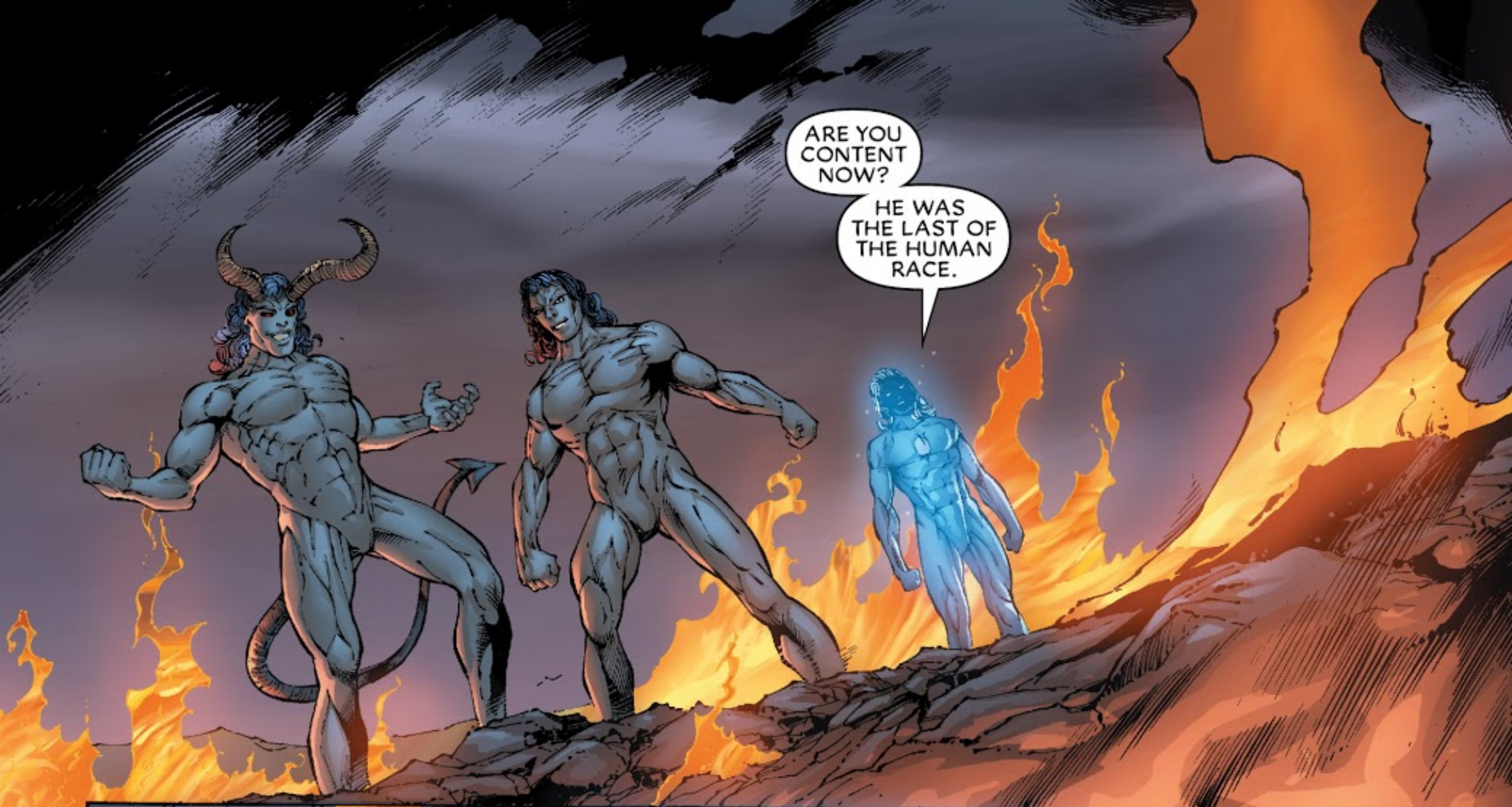
DO YOUR  
WORST.











ARE YOU  
CONTENT  
NOW?

HE WAS  
THE LAST OF  
THE HUMAN  
RACE.



YOU COULD  
HAVE BEEN THE  
GREATEST OF MY  
CHILDREN. WHAT  
POISON POLLUTED  
YOUR SOULS TO  
MAKE YOU SO  
CORRUPT?

I GAVE  
YOU THIS  
WORLD.

NOW  
I LEAVE  
YOU WITH  
WHAT YOU  
HAVE  
MADE OF  
IT.

I HOPE  
YOU TAKE  
PLEASURE  
IN IT.





"For a brief moment their minds were clear and they saw the folly of their ancient feud..."

IS THIS WHAT WE HAVE COME TO...



BROTHER, PERHAPS WE SHOULD-

-THIS...



THIS IS YOUR FAULT!

MY FAULT!

MY FAULT?!!

"...and then the fog of madness descended once more."



HOW IS THIS MY FAULT?

TWO WORDS.

FREE WILL.

YOU GAVE THEM FREE WILL YOU MORON! YOU THINK THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU NEVER DID THAT?



WITHOUT FREE WILL YOUR DOCILE LITTLE HUMANS WOULD STILL BE SUNNING THEMSELVES IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

THEY WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE GOTTEN AROUND TO BREEDING.

WITHOUT ME, ADAM WOULD STILL BE USING HIS WIENIE TO SWAT FLIES!



IF I DIDN'T GIVE THEM FREE WILL THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ATILA THE HUN, NO GENGHIS KHAN, NO WAR, NO GENOCIDE...

NO HELLSPAWN!!





EXACTLY.  
NO  
HELLSPAWN.



MORON.



THE  
**HELL**  
WITH  
YOU!!

I DON'T  
NEED AN  
ARMY TO WHIP  
YOUR ASS!



*"Thus the final battle began again. There were no armies, no demons or fire-breathing dragons, no flights of angels."*

*"Just two great immortals. Between them they had the power to create a world teeming with life and beauty. They could have created wonders beyond imagining."*



"Instead they were blind to everything but their hatred for one another."

"So they fought, tearing down mountains, rending and blasting the barren surface of the land as they stormed back and forth across the scarred dead husk of the planet they had named The Earth."

"Thus did Armageddon come to pass."

AND SO IT GOES.

WILL THEY EVER STOP?

WHO KNOWS? NEITHER CAN DEFEAT THE OTHER. THEY ARE ALL-POWERFUL AND IMMORTAL. THERE CAN BE NO VICTORY.

I ALLOW ALL MY CHILDREN TO MAKE THEIR OWN DESTINY. I HAVE GIVEN THEM ALL THE GUIDANCE I CAN BUT I FEAR THEY ARE BEYOND HOPE.

LIKE THE WORM THAT EATS ITS OWN TAIL THEY ARE TRAPPED IN A CYCLE OF ENDLESS SELF-DESTRUCTION.





YOU  
THOUGH,  
MY HELL-  
SPAWN...

YOU HAVE  
WON A GREAT  
VICTORY.



IT  
DOESN'T  
FEEL LIKE  
IT.

DID I KILL  
EVERYTHING?  
DID I KILL  
TERRY?  
CYAN?

DID I KILL  
WANDA?



IT IS AS  
I TOLD YOU. I  
WITHDREW MY  
PROTECTION  
FROM THEM.

THEY  
ARE ALL  
DEAD.



IF  
YOU'VE  
LIED TO  
ME...

I  
DON'T  
LIE.

I DON'T  
ALWAYS TELL  
THE WHOLE  
TRUTH, BUT I  
DON'T LIE.

EVERYTHING  
THAT DIES WILL  
BE RE-BORN.




HOW  
DO I DO  
IT?

HOW  
DO I  
BRING  
THEM  
BACK?

YOU MUST  
CLOSE YOUR EYES TO  
THIS DEAD WORLD.  
BANISH IT FROM YOUR  
MIND.

THEN  
OPEN  
YOURSELF  
TO ME.





I AM CREATION. I AM  
EVERYTHING THAT EVER  
WAS OR WILL BE.

TAKE BACK  
WHAT YOU  
DESTROYED.  
MAKE IT WHOLE  
AGAIN.

YOU HAVE  
THE WILL, SPAWN.  
YOU HAVE THE  
POWER.

IF YOUR  
DESIRE IS GREAT  
ENOUGH, IT WILL  
BE SO...

*"Then came  
the time of  
rebirth."*





"The dark clouds lifted and every thing that was dead awakened as if from a deep sleep."



"Again a great light filled the sky and there was no night anywhere on the Earth."



"The diseased were healed, disasters were undone, the world was made whole, all evils banished."



"But the memory of those terrible days of Apocalypse remained with them. No one would ever forget the horror of the End of Days when the Horsemen rode the Earth."



"For it was from that dark despair that hope was born."

"And the world was at peace..."



BAKERSFIELD,  
CALIFORNIA.

GRANNY?

GRANNY!

WAS IT  
ALL A  
DREAM?

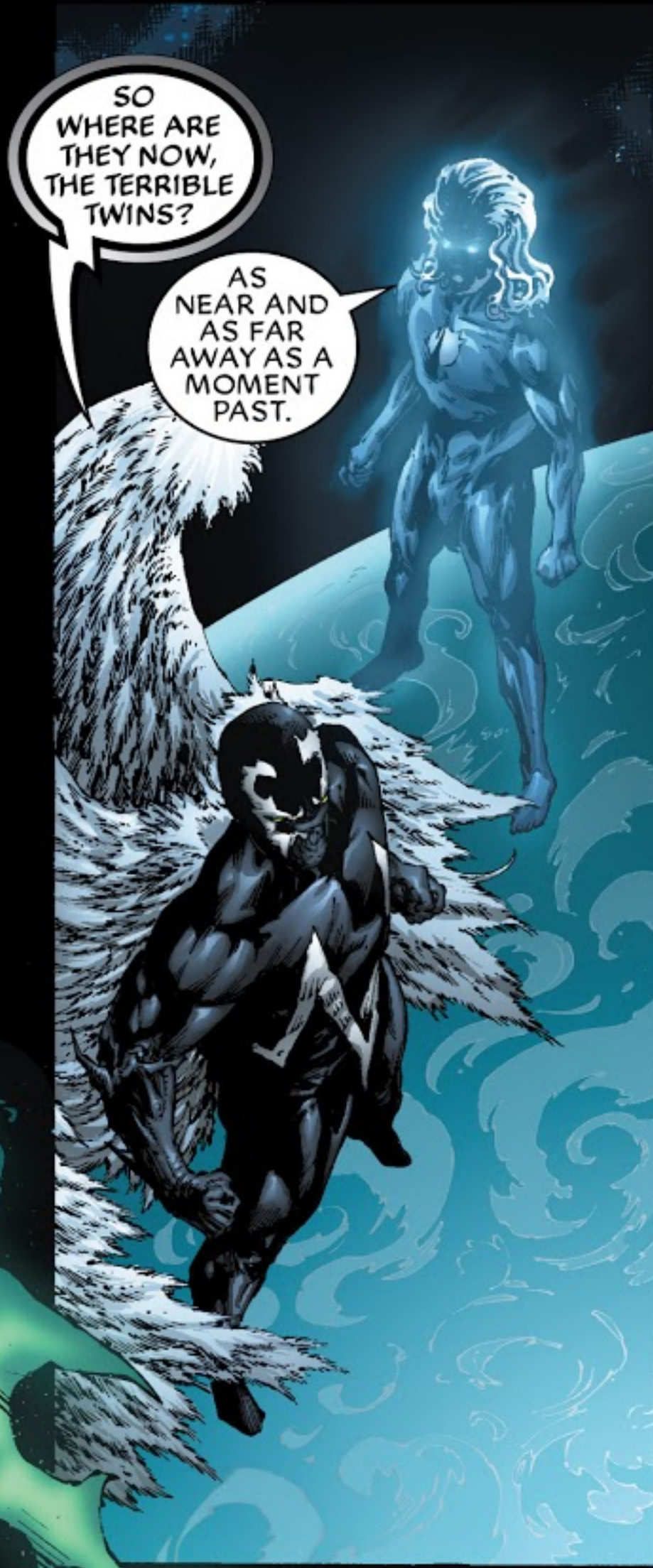
PLEASE TELL  
ME I'VE BEEN  
DREAMING.

NO MOMMY.  
IT HAPPENED.

THE SAD  
MAN SAVED  
US, DIDN'T HE  
GRANNY?

YES,  
HONEY.  
IT WAS  
AL SAVED  
US ALL.





SO WHERE ARE THEY NOW, THE TERRIBLE TWINS?

AS NEAR AND AS FAR AWAY AS A MOMENT PAST.



IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR ONE STRAIGHT ANSWER?

AS LONG AS THEY'RE BLINDED BY HATE, AS LONG AS THEY BELIEVE THAT YOU AND THE REST OF THE HUMAN RACE HAVE PERISHED, THEN THEY WILL REMAIN IN THAT DEAD WORLD THEY'VE MADE FOR THEMSELVES.



WHAT HAPPENED TO HEAVEN AND HELL?

THEY STILL EXIST, BUT YOU ARE THIS WORLD'S CREATOR. YOU MAKE THE RULES NOW.

IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE THE PORTALS THAT LINK HEAVEN AND HELL TO EARTH, YOU ONLY HAVE TO SAY THE WORDS.



THEN I CLOSE THEM!

FROM NOW ON, NO DEMON OR ANGEL WILL EVER INTERFERE WITH A SINGLE HUMAN LIFE.





WHAT  
WILL  
YOU DO  
NOW?

I HAVE LIVED  
AS A MAN. I KNOW  
YOUR DESIRES. THE  
WILL TO POWER IS THE  
STRONGEST OF ALL  
MOTIVATIONS.

AND  
YOU  
HAVE THE  
POWER  
OF A  
GOD.

THE LAST  
THING THIS WORLD  
NEEDS IS ANOTHER  
GOD.

FROM  
NOW ON THEY  
CAN MAKE IT ON  
THEIR OWN.



YOU WON'T  
CHANGE  
ANYTHING?

LIKE WHAT? BRING  
ABOUT WORLD PEACE? END  
GLOBAL WARMING? CURE  
THE COMMON COLD?

WHERE WOULD IT  
END? IF THERE'S ONE THING  
I KNOW IT'S THAT THE MORE  
YOU TRY TO CONTROL THINGS,  
THE MORE CHAOS YOU  
CREATE.

NO. IT'S  
TIME FOR  
MANKIND TO  
GROW UP.  
THEY CAN  
FIND THEIR  
OWN WAY.



STILL. THIS  
WORLD IS YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY.

NO. I  
DON'T  
WANT ANY OF  
THIS. I'M NOT  
A GOD. I'M  
NOT AN  
ANGEL.

ALL I  
WANT IS WHAT  
I ALWAYS  
WANTED.



I CAME  
BACK FOR  
WANDA. THAT'S  
WHY I MADE THE  
DEAL WITH  
MALEBOLGIA.  
THAT'S WHY I  
BECAME A  
HELLSPAWN.





ALL I EVER  
WANTED WAS  
TO HAVE MY  
LIFE BACK.

SO YOU CAN  
TAKE THIS AWAY.  
THE WINGS, THE  
POWER, IMMORTALITY.  
I JUST WANT TO BE  
AL SIMMONS.

YOU'VE BEEN  
GONE A LONG  
TIME. WANDA  
HAS MOVED ON.  
SHE HAS A NEW  
FAMILY.



I'M THE  
ONE WANDA  
LOVES. SHE NEVER  
STOPPED.

TERRY FILLED  
THE GAP. BUT SHE  
NEVER STOPPED  
LOVING ME.

IT WILL HURT  
TERRY. I KNOW THAT AND  
I'M SORRY FOR HIM. BUT  
WHATEVER HE FEELS WILL  
NEVER BE ONE THOUSANDTH  
OF WHAT I'VE BEEN  
THROUGH.

CYAN  
ALREADY THINKS  
OF ME LIKE A  
FATHER. THIS WILL  
WORK.



I DESERVE  
IT, DON'T I?

DO  
YOU?



JUST  
DO IT. GIVE  
ME THIS ONE  
THING.

VERY  
WELL.









...AND  
I'M GOING  
HOME.

NEXT  
ISSUE:  
SPAWN 164





# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>



Chiodo



# HOME COMING

I SWEAR I NEVER SAW A MORE PERFECT EVENING. IT'S LIKE A SPIELBERG MOVIE. STARS AS SHARP AND CLEAR AS DIAMONDS. NO TRAFFIC NOISE. NOTHING BUT THE CHIRPING OF CICADAS AND THE RUSTLE OF A WARM BREEZE THROUGH THE LEAVES.

I FEEL LIKE A TEENAGER COMING TO PICK UP MY DATE FOR THE PROM.

IT'S JUST TOO PERFECT.

I CAN ALMOST TASTE HER LIPS.



STOP.

NO!

THIS IS END OF STORY. THIS IS WHERE THE LIGHTS COME UP. THE AUDIENCE SHUFFLES OUT OF THE THEATRE AND GOES HOME.

GODDAMIT! DON'T DO THIS TO ME.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING YOU HAVE TO KNOW.

I HAVE TO SHOW YOU THIS.

I'M GOING TO HER. NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP ME THIS TIME.





HE BROUGHT ME BACK.

I PASSED OVER AND HE BROUGHT ME BACK.



IT WAS AL WHO SAVED US ALL.

HE LOOKED LIKE AN ANGEL WANDA, A *REAL* ANGEL. I HAD MY SIGHT BACK LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THAT.

YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP GRANNY.

LORD KNOWS, I'M TIRED ENOUGH, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE EVERYTHING WILL STILL BE HERE WHEN I WAKE UP.



DON'T WORRY. IT WILL.

IT WASN'T GOD. THAT MONSTROUS CHILD. THAT THING.

IT WASN'T GOD!



I THINK... I THINK ALL THIS WAS A TEST OF OUR FAITH AND I AM NOT SHAKEN, WANDA.

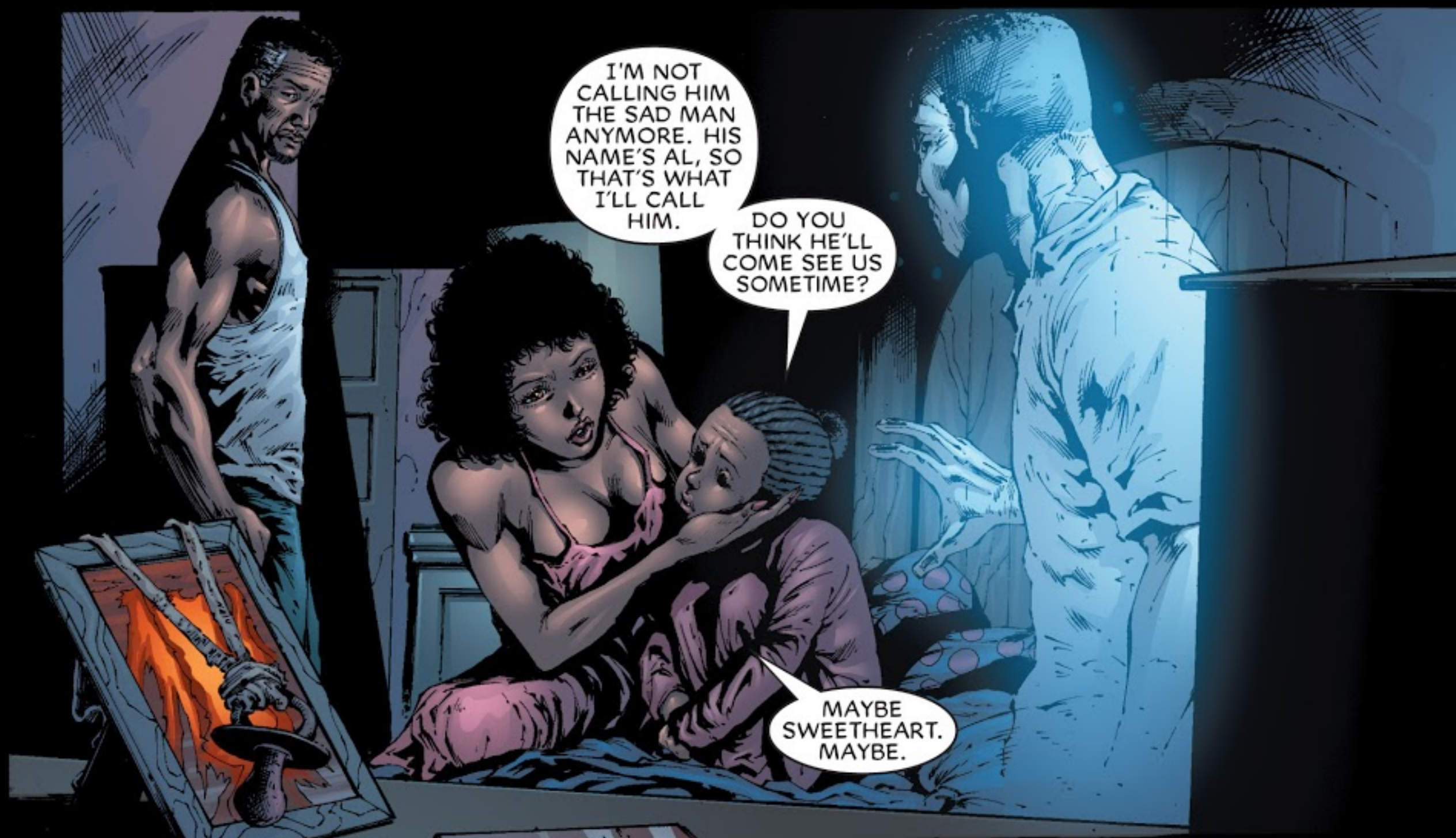
I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES.





POOR  
GRANNY.  
IT WAS WORSE  
FOR HER  
WASN'T IT?

THE SAD MAN  
KEPT US SAFE WHILE  
EVERYONE ELSE WAS  
DYING, BUT GRANNY WAS  
OUT THERE, WHERE ALL  
THE DEMONS WERE  
FIGHTING.



I'M NOT  
CALLING HIM  
THE SAD MAN  
ANYMORE. HIS  
NAME'S AL, SO  
THAT'S WHAT  
I'LL CALL  
HIM.

DO YOU  
THINK HE'LL  
COME SEE US  
SOMETIME?

MAYBE  
SWEETHEART.  
MAYBE.



IF  
YOU NEED  
US WE'LL BE  
SLEEPING IN  
THE SPARE  
ROOM WHILE  
GRANNY'S  
HERE,  
OKAY?



'KAY.















I FOUND THESE A LONG TIME AGO.

LOVE LETTERS! PHOTOS!

THOSE ARE PRIVATE, TERRY!

AND OF COURSE I KEPT THEM!



SURE. WHY WOULDN'T YOU?

SEE, I COULD UNDERSTAND IT IF YOU LOCKED THEM AWAY SAFE, TOOK THEM OUT MAYBE A COUPLE TIMES A YEAR. WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. HIS BIRTHDAY.

MAYBE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST TIME YOU SCREWED.

THAT, SURE. NO FREAKING PROBLEM.



BUT YOU LOOK AT THESE EVERY DAY!

YOU'RE WEARING THEM OUT, KISSING THE DAMNED THINGS.

YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON ME?!



SO WHAT'S NEXT? ARE YOU GOING TO HIT ME?

HIT YOU?! MY GOD, NO. I WOULD NEVER...



AL WOULD HAVE.

WHAT?!

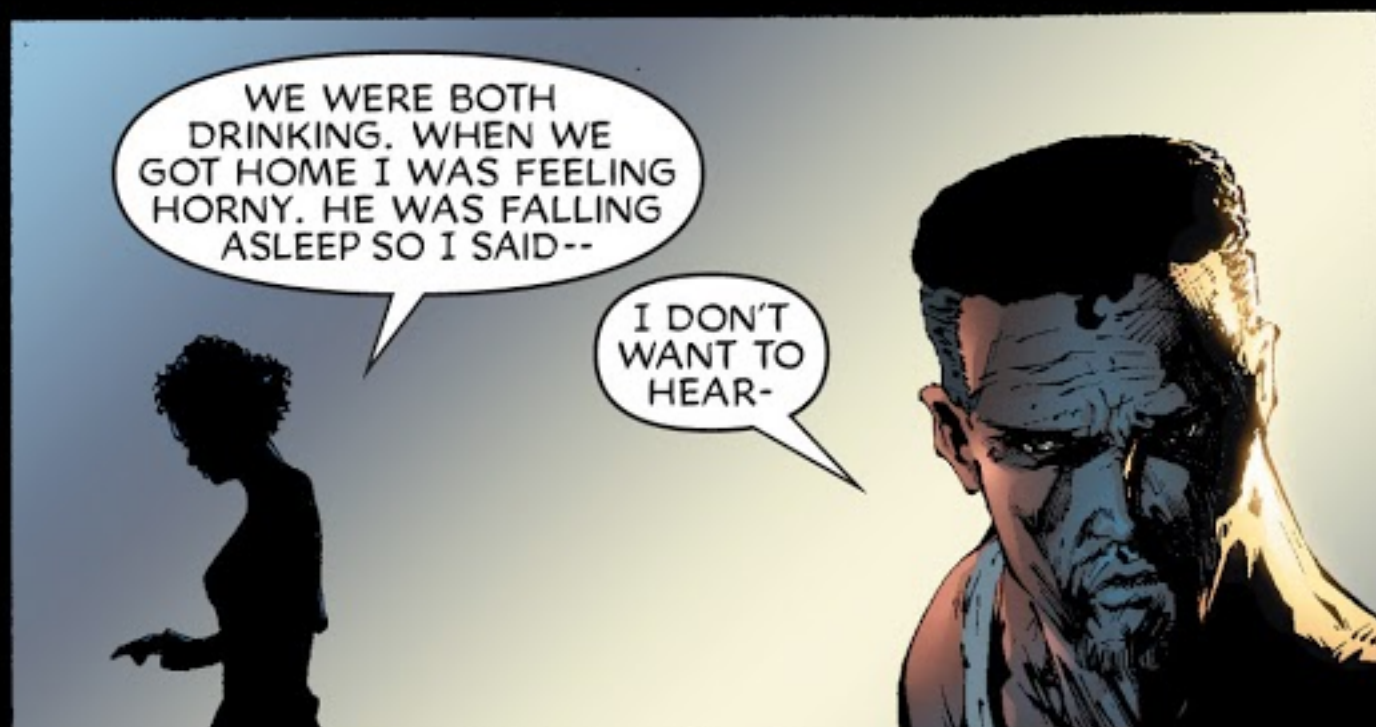




THE FIRST TIME HE HIT ME WAS JUST AFTER THIS WAS TAKEN.



THIS WAS AN AGENCY PARTY. HIS BOSS WAS THERE. JASON WYNN. BACK THEN, WYNN WAS THE ONLY MAN AL LOOKED UP TO.



WE WERE BOTH DRINKING. WHEN WE GOT HOME I WAS FEELING HORNY. HE WAS FALLING ASLEEP SO I SAID--

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR--



-NO YOU **LISTEN** TO ME TERRY. YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ME AND AL, SO YOU'RE GOING TO LISTEN...



I SAID, YOU'VE GOT SUCH A HARD-ON FOR YOUR BOSS, LET'S GIVE HIM A CALL, INVITE HIM OVER FOR A THREESOME. MAYBE THAT'LL PUT SOME WOOD IN YOUR PECKER.

IT WAS A JOKE. OBVIOUSLY. BUT HE JUST...



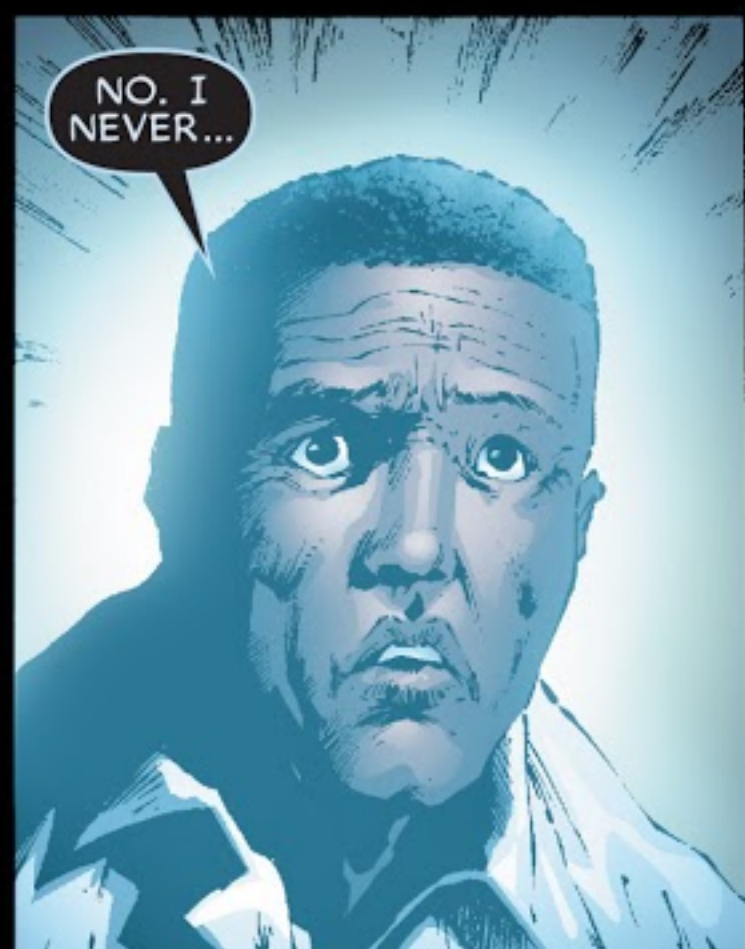
"WHAM... OUT OF NOWHERE. HE WAS A PRO ALL RIGHT. EVEN DRUNK HE MOVED SO FAST I NEVER SAW IT COMING."



I ALWAYS SAID, IF A MAN EVER HIT ME, I'D WALK. I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THOSE WOMEN, THOSE BATTERED WIVES.

HOW STUPID, HOW **WEAK**, TO STAY WITH A MAN WHO BEATS THEM.

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF LIKE THAT. I WASN'T A BATTERED WIFE. I TOLD MYSELF IT WASN'T THAT OFTEN. A SLAP, A PUNCH, A TWISTED ARM. I COULD LIVE WITH IT...



NO. I NEVER...



"HE WAS ALWAYS SO SWEET AFTER. HE'D CRY LIKE A LITTLE KID. HE WAS ALWAYS SO SORRY."

"HE COULD BE SUCH A ROMANTIC. I'VE HAD MORE RED ROSES..."

"ONE TIME HE FORGOT MY BIRTHDAY AND HE MADE UP FOR IT BY GIVING ME SHANNA. SEE, HE KNEW EXACTLY. SOME GUYS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN JEWELRY, A WEEKEND IN PARIS. BUT AL KNEW JUST EXACTLY..."

"I'M NOT STUPID. I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN HE DISAPPEARED FOR WEEKS AT A TIME. BUT I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE THE STONE-COLD KILLER AND MELT HIS HEART."

"HE DID LOVE ME. I DON'T DOUBT THAT. BUT I WANTED CHILDREN AND IF HE HAD TO MAKE THE CHOICE BETWEEN A STROLL IN THE PARK WITH HIS WIFE AND KIDS OR A TREK THROUGH SNAKE-INFESTED JUNGLE TO PUT A BULLET IN A TOTAL STRANGER... HEY, NO CONTEST."







BUT HE WANTED A FAMILY. HE TOLD ME---

SURE HE DID. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS LATER. NEXT YEAR, THEN THE NEXT AND THE NEXT---



"HE KNEW THE DAY HE HAD A KID HE'D HAVE TO TAKE A DESK JOB. HE KNEW I WOULDN'T LET HIM CHANGE A DIAPER WITH THE SAME HANDS THAT HAD BEEN AROUND SOMEONE'S THROAT."



HE WAS NEVER GOING TO MAKE THAT CHOICE SO I MADE IT FOR HIM.

I STOPPED TAKING THE PILL. AND I GOT PREGNANT.

PREGNANT? YOU WERE PREGNANT?

NO IT'S A LIE. WE COULDN'T HAVE KIDS. WE TRIED.

THIS IS ALL LIES!!



I WAS SCARED WHEN I TOLD HIM, I KNEW I WAS PUTTING OUR RELATIONSHIP ON THE LINE. BUT I THOUGHT---I **BELIEVED** THAT A CHILD WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING...

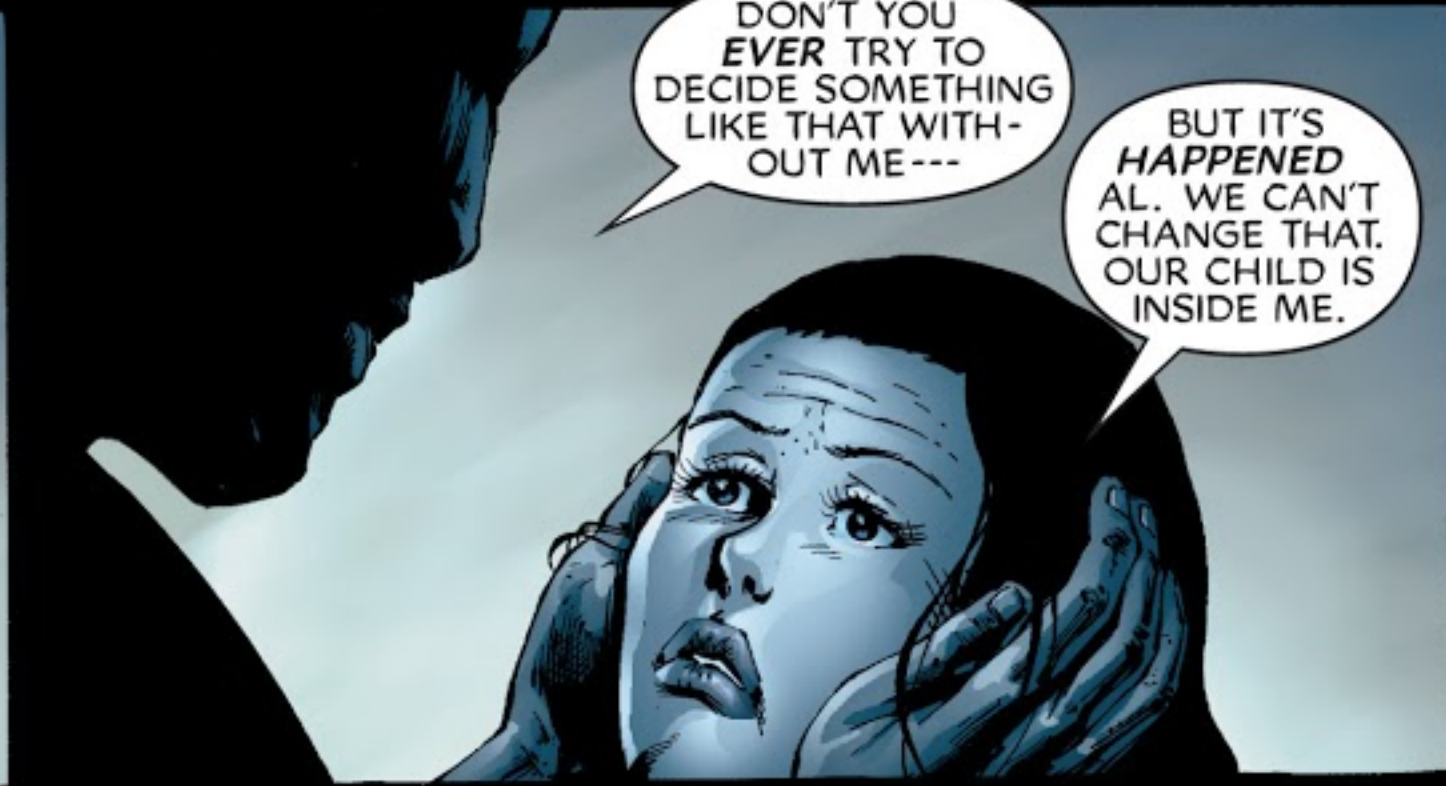
HE LOOKED AT ME FOR THE LONGEST TIME. HE WASN'T ANGRY. HE JUST SAID--- VERY QUIETLY--- HE SAID

"I LOVE YOU WANDA..."





I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING. I WANT TO HAVE A KID WITH YOU. I'LL QUIT. I'LL GET THAT DESK JOB AND WE'LL PLAY HAPPY FAMILIES. BUT NOT YET.



DON'T YOU EVER TRY TO DECIDE SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHOUT ME---

BUT IT'S **HAPPENED** AL. WE CAN'T CHANGE THAT. OUR CHILD IS INSIDE ME.



YOU DON'T KNOW, WANDA, WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU DON'T KNOW THE EVIL. THERE'S A TIDAL WAVE BUILDING OUT THERE. PEOPLE WHO ENVY US, HATE US.

THEY WILL BRING DOWN MAYHEM AND SLAUGHTER LIKE YOU CAN'T IMAGINE.



THEY WANT TO THROW ACID IN THE FACE OF EVERY AMERICAN CHILD AND WATCH THE FLESH SLIDE OFF THE BONES...



AL, STOP THIS.

I'M THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE. THERE'S A WAR GOING ON AND YOU PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW...



"**YOU PEOPLE?!"**  
LISTEN TO YOURSELF! YOU HAVE TO STOP. LET SOMEONE ELSE DEAL WITH IT.



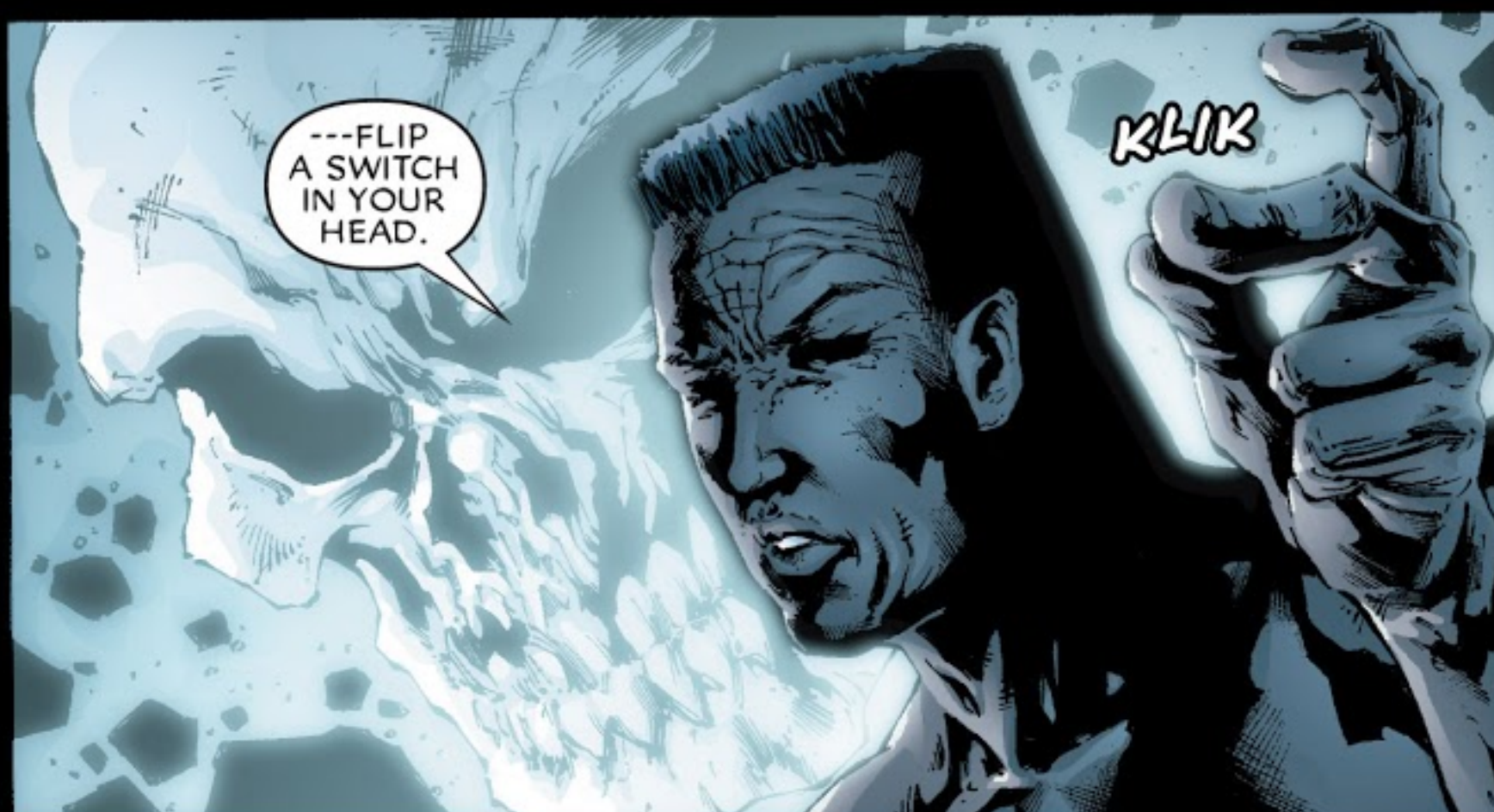


THERE *IS* NO ONE ELSE.

THERE ARE GUYS, AGENTS, KILLERS, BUT NO ONE LIKE ME. THEY CAN'T DO WHAT I DO. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO *FEEL*.



YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LOVE SOMEONE LIKE I LOVE YOU WANDA AND THEN YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO---



---FLIP A SWITCH IN YOUR HEAD.

KLIK



I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.

"THEN I SAW IT. THE LOOK THAT HIS VICTIMS MUST SEE IN THE SECOND BEFORE THEY DIE. IT'S NOT HATE. IT'S SOMEWHERE BEYOND LOVE AND HATE. IT'S THE LOOK OF A MAN WHO HAS FELT SOMETHING NO ONE ELSE CAN FEEL."



"HE WANTED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED TO SAVE US. ANYONE CAN KILL, BUT IT TAKES SOMEONE SPECIAL TO BE ABLE TO KILL THE THING HE LOVES."

"HE KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING. HE KNEW EXACTLY..."



I LOST  
THE  
BABY.

AL

KILLED

OUR

CHILD.











NOW  
DO YOU SEE  
WHY YOU  
COULD NEVER  
GO BACK TO  
HER?

YOU  
KNEW.

YOU  
*KNEW*  
THIS.



YOU KNEW TOO,  
AL. YOU SUPPRESSED  
THE MEMORY. YOU TRIED  
TO KEEP IT BURIED, BUT  
YOU HAVE ALWAYS  
KNOWN.

EVERY TIME  
YOU TRIED TO  
GO BACK TO HER  
AS AL SIMMONS,  
YOUR BODY  
REBELLED.

WHY  
DO YOU  
THINK  
THAT  
WAS?



I KILLED  
MY OWN  
CHILD.

WITH THIS  
HAND...



IT WAS YOUR  
SUBCONSCIOUS.

YOU COULD  
NEVER LET HER SEE  
YOU AS AL SIMMONS.  
ONLY AS THE EVIL THING  
YOU BELIEVED YOU  
HAD BECOME.





THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT.

BUT NO ONE DID THIS TO YOU AL. YOU DID THIS TO YOURSELF.



YOU'RE NOT A MONSTER.

YOU'RE AL SIMMONS.



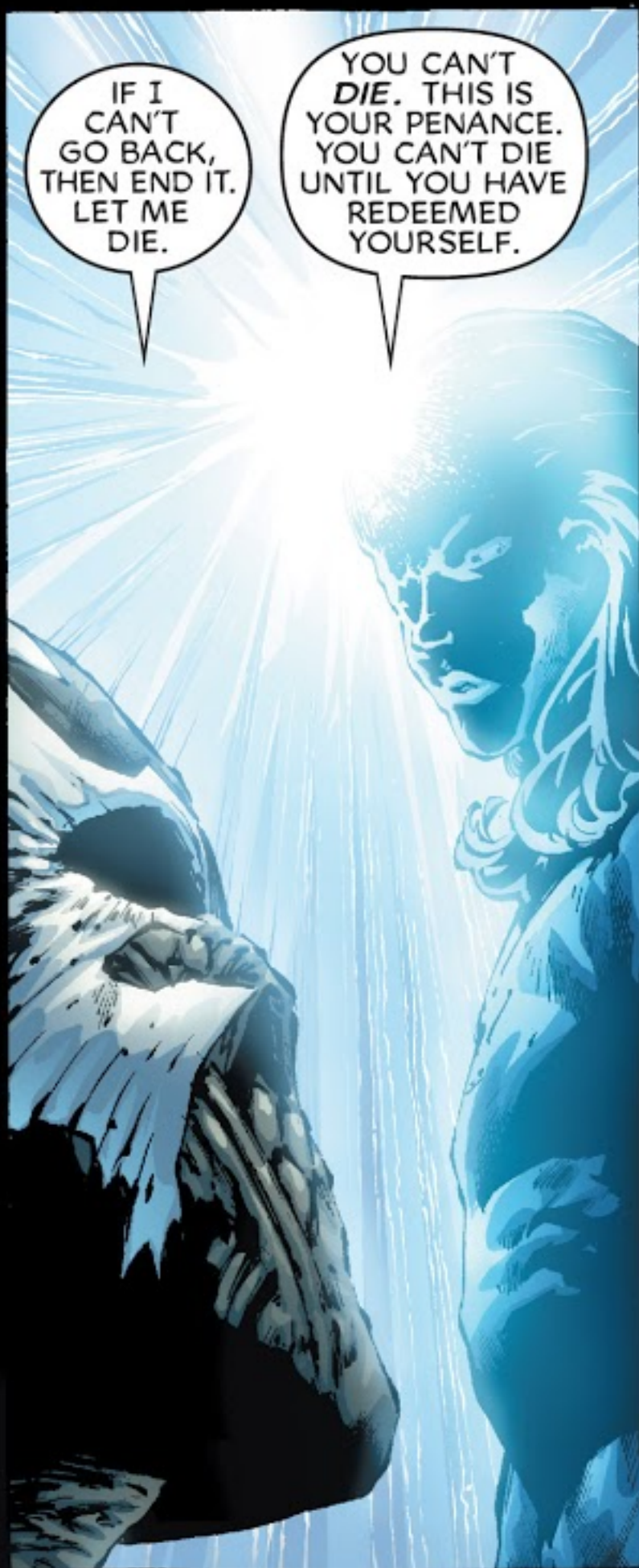
YOU BLAMED MALEBOLGIA FOR MAKING YOU A HELLSPAWN, BUT IT WAS YOUR CHOICE.

YOU CREATED YOUR OWN HELL. YOU WELCOMED WHAT MALEBOLGIA OFFERED YOU BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SUFFER.



I AM A MONSTER. AL SIMMONS WAS ALWAYS A MONSTER.









THE ALLEYS  
ARE DESERTED.

EVEN  
THE  
HOME-  
LESS  
HAVE  
BETTER  
PLACES  
TO BE.



THEY DON'T  
NEED HIM  
ANY MORE.




THERE IS NO  
MORE GOD,  
NO SATAN,  
NO MORE  
DEMONS OR  
MONSTERS  
OR FALLEN  
ANGELS TO  
PROTECT  
THEM FROM.



NO ONE  
NEEDS HIM.







HE IS AL  
SIMMONS...

...THE MAN  
WHO SAVED  
THE WORLD,  
BUT COULD  
NOT SAVE  
HIMSELF...

THE END





EPILOGUE.

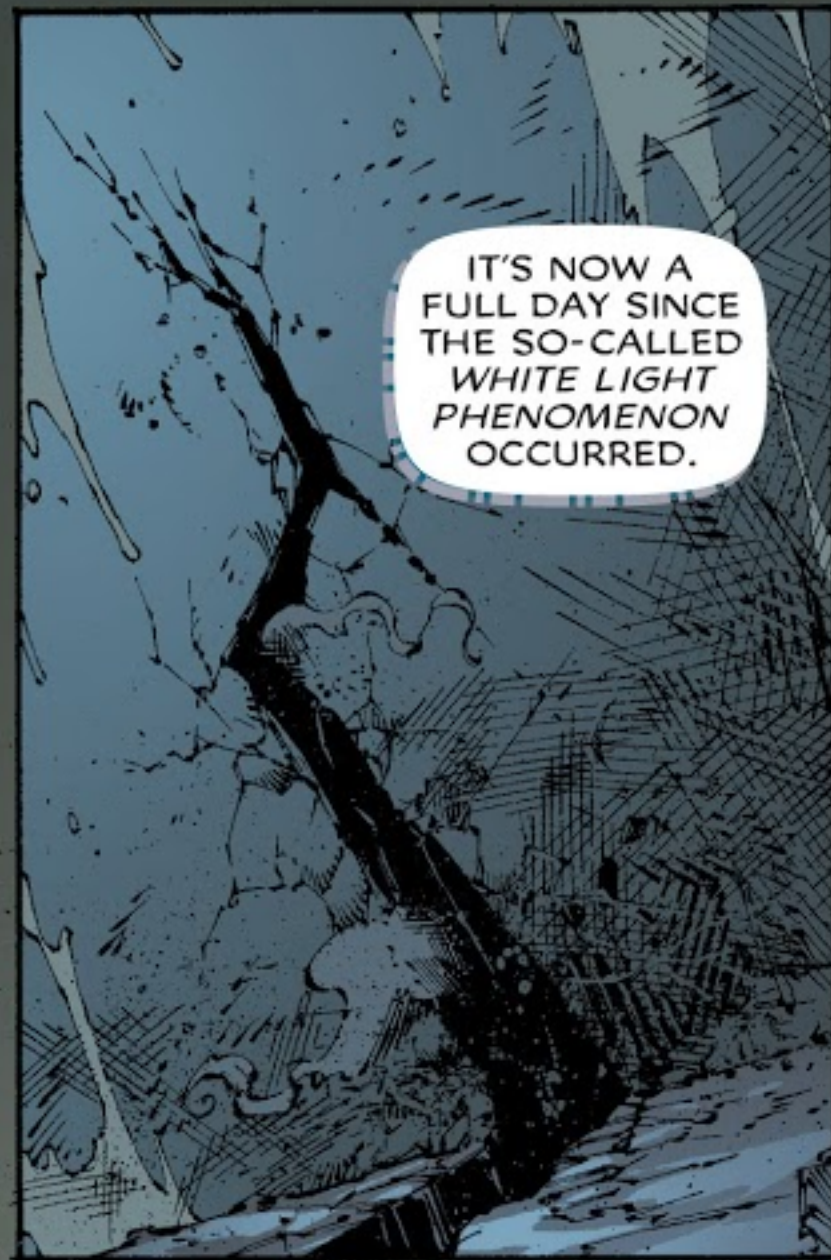
NEW VISTA  
APARTMENTS,  
THE BRONX.

GOOD  
EVENING  
AMERICA.



I'M KELLY  
WELLES, BRINGING  
YOU THE LATEST LOCAL,  
NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS  
TWENTY-FOUR  
HOURS A DAY.

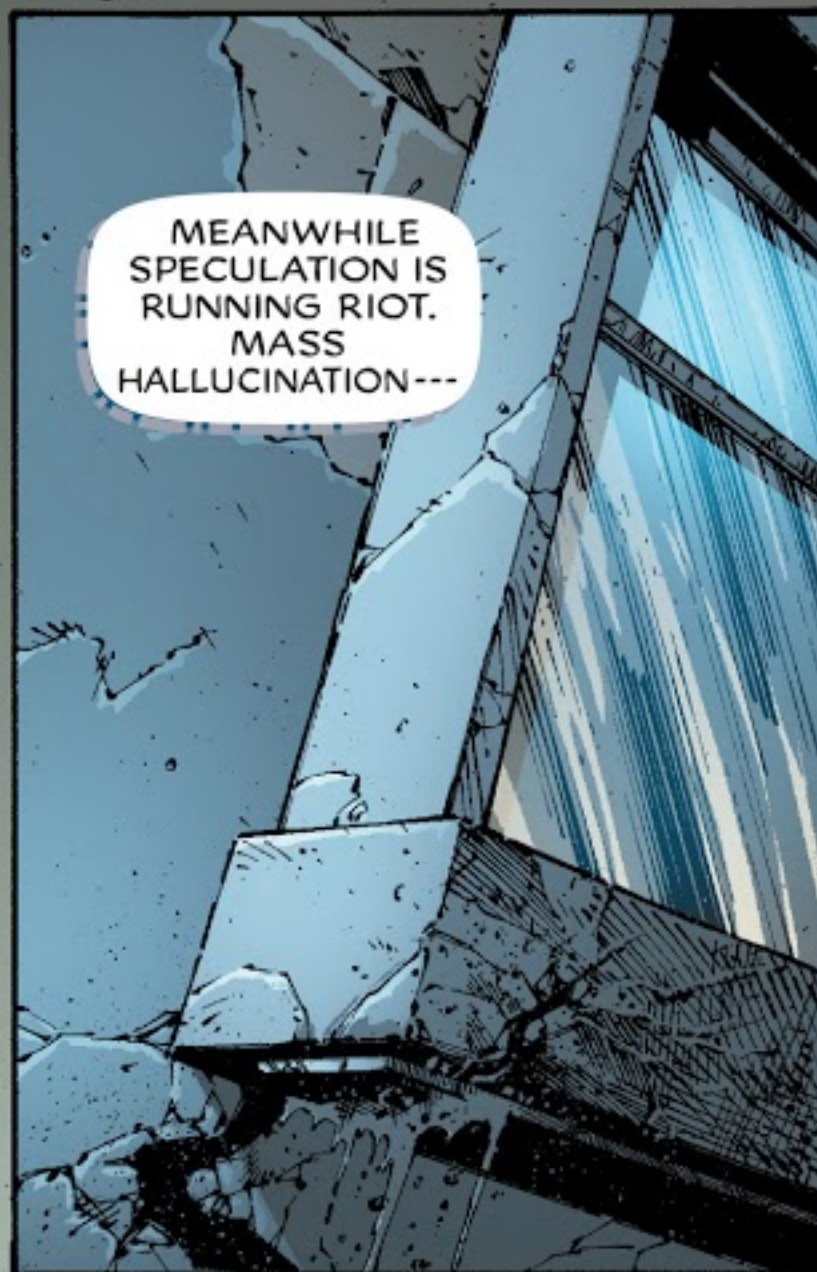
KRAK



IT'S NOW A  
FULL DAY SINCE  
THE SO-CALLED  
WHITE LIGHT  
PHENOMENON  
OCCURRED.



THERE HAS SO  
FAR BEEN NO OFFICIAL  
EXPLANATION FOR  
THE BIZARRE EVENTS  
OF THE PAST FEW  
WEEKS.



MEANWHILE  
SPECULATION IS  
RUNNING RIOT.  
MASS  
HALLUCINATION---



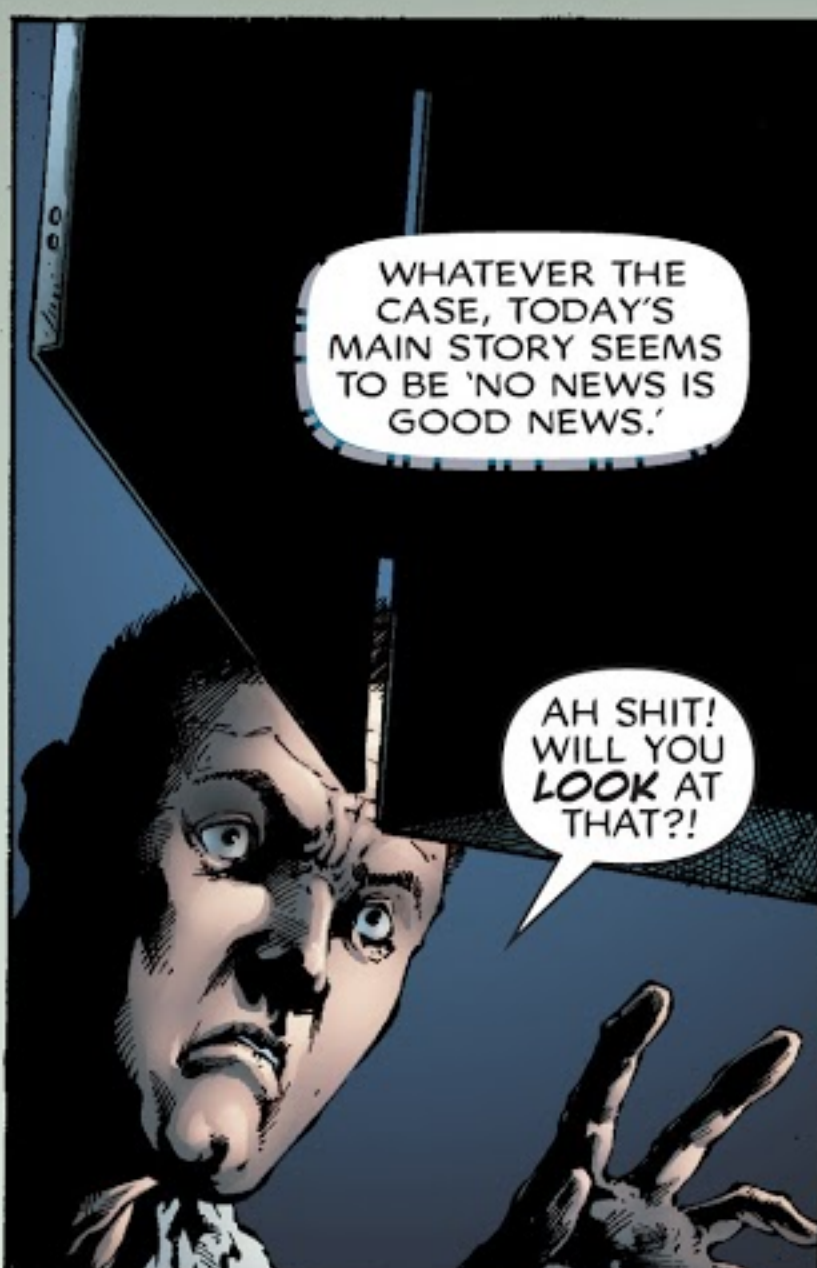
--- A FINAL  
WARNING FROM  
THE GOOD LORD  
TO MEND OUR  
WICKED WAYS---

KA-  
CHINK



---OR ARE  
YOU FAST  
ASLEEP AND  
DREAMING  
THE WHOLE  
CRAZY  
SCENARIO---

DAMN!  
THIS  
PLACE---



WHATEVER THE  
CASE, TODAY'S  
MAIN STORY SEEMS  
TO BE 'NO NEWS IS  
GOOD NEWS.'

AH SHIT!  
WILL YOU  
LOOK  
AT THAT?!



LENNY YOU  
ARE ONE MANKY  
LITTLE TURD.

NO BOMBS,  
NO MURDERS,  
NO RAPES---





THAT PRICK  
IS DRIVING ME  
CRAZY WITH THE  
RINGS AROUND  
THE TUB AND THE  
PUBES ON THE  
SOAP.

---NO QUAKES,  
NO  
TORNADOES---



I WORK  
MY BUTT OFF  
ALL DAY AND  
COME HOME  
TO THIS.

---NO ZOMBIES,  
WOLFEN OR  
INVADERS FROM  
MARS. STATUS SEEMS  
TO BE MORE-OR-LESS  
BACK TO QUO---



---ONLY  
WITHOUT  
THE BAD  
STUFF---



LOOK AT  
YOU MAN, YOU  
TOTALLY  
WASTED.

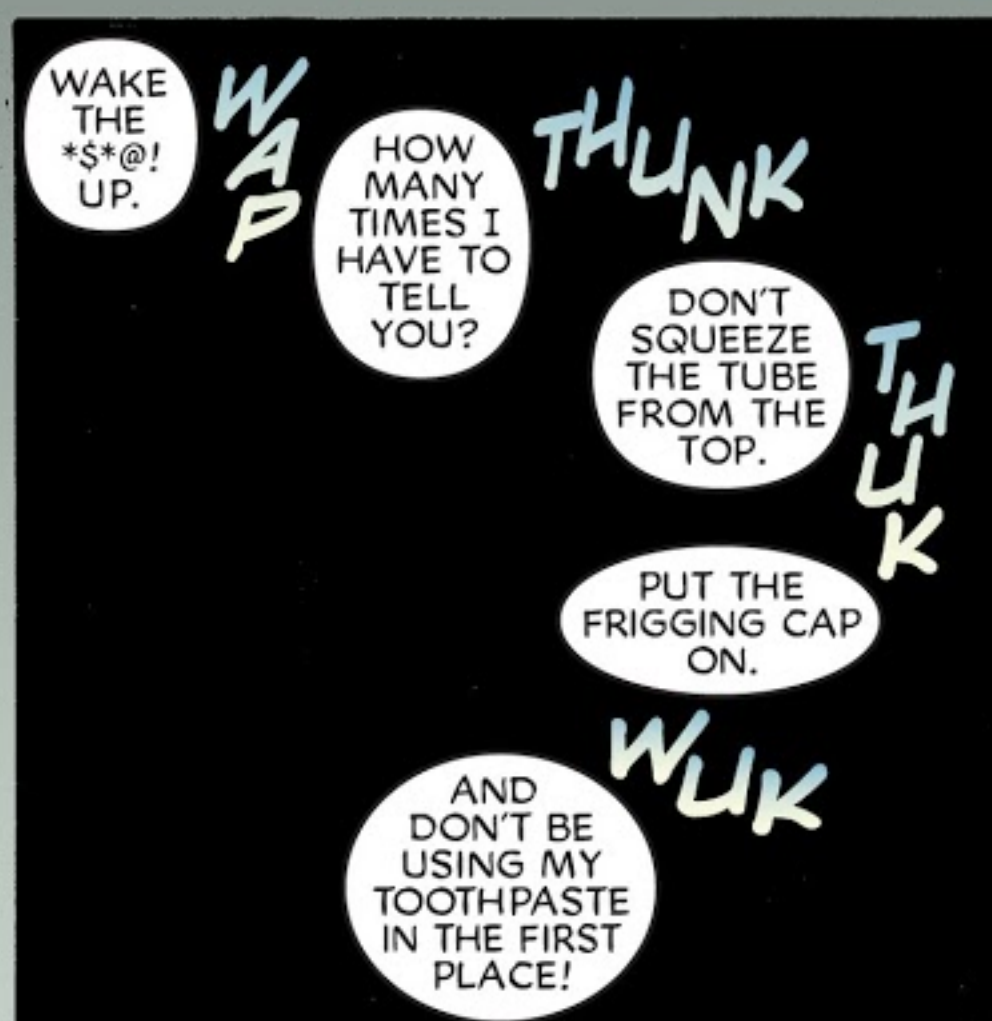
WHAT  
YOU BEEN  
SMOKING  
DUDE?

---IT  
SEEMS  
LIKE  
EVERYONE  
IS TAKING  
TIME OUT  
TO BE NICE  
TO EACH  
OTHER---



CAN'T PAY  
THE RENT, BUT  
YOU GOT THE CASH  
FLOW TO SCORE  
WEAPONS GRADE  
WEED.

HEY LENNY.  
YOU LISTENING  
TO ME?



WAKE  
THE  
\*\$@!  
UP.

WAP

HOW  
MANY  
TIMES I  
HAVE TO  
TELL  
YOU?

THUNK

DON'T  
SQUEEZE  
THE TUBE  
FROM THE  
TOP.

THUK

PUT THE  
FRIGGING CAP  
ON.

AND  
DON'T BE  
USING MY  
TOOTHPASTE  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE!

WUK



EVEN THE  
FOLKS ON  
CAPITOL HILL  
CAN'T FIND A  
BAD WORD  
TO SAY.

ASSHOLE.



IF THIS  
KEEPS UP,  
I COULD  
BE OUT OF  
A JOB.



SO I GUESS  
TONIGHT'S  
HEADLINE  
NEWS HAS TO  
BE THIS---



MY  
FRIENDS---

---IT'S BEEN  
A BEAUTIFUL  
DAY.

AMEN,  
DUDE.

AMEN.





MANDARIN

# SPAWN



CAPULL/G  
MFARIANE

165



DIGITAL  
EDITION

SPAWN.COM



**I**N THE FINAL YEARS OF THE SOUTHERN SUNG DYNASTY, BEFORE KUBLAI KHAN'S MONGOL ARMY CONQUERED CHINA, A MAN NAMED ZHENG LI WAS MADE GOVERNOR OF A SUB-PREFECTURE IN SHANSI PROVINCE.

**Z**HENG LI HAD FALLEN FROM FAVOR AT THE EMPEROR'S COURT. IT WAS A SIGN OF HIS DISGRACE THAT HE HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO THIS MISERABLE REGION.

**F**EARING RAIDS FROM THE NEIGHBORING MONGOLS, ZHENG LI SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH THE BEST WARRIORS HE COULD FIND. TO FINANCE HIS PRIVATE ARMY HE TAXED THE LOCAL PEASANTS MERCILESSLY.



**O**NE EVENING IN LATE SUMMER, A PARTY OF HIS TAX GATHERERS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE WITH AN UNUSUAL BOOTY.







THE PEOPLE OF MIHSI ARE LIARS AND LAYABOUTS. IF THEY HAVE NO FOOD PERHAPS WE SHOULD SPARE THEM THE TRIALS OF THE COMING WINTER BY SLAUGHTERING THEM ALL LIKE DOGS.

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME?

SIR, THE VILLAGE OF MIHSI HAS NO TRIBUTE. THEIR RICE CROPS HAVE FAILED AND THEY ARE STARVING.

IN PLACE OF TRIBUTE THEY HAVE SENT A MONSTER FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.



THE CREATURE WAS BORN IN THE VILLAGE TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO UNDER A BLOOD-RED MOON. THE MOTHER CLAIMS IT WAS Sired BY A DEMON.

A DEMON! WHAT KIND OF A FOOL DO THEY TAKE ME FOR?

OPEN IT UP! LET'S SEE WHAT DROOLING IDIOT THOSE INBRED WRETCHES HAVE SPAWNED.



BY ALL THE GODS OF HIGHEST HEAVEN!





I THINK  
THE VILLAGERS  
MAY BE RIGHT,  
FATHER.

THAT  
OBSCENITY  
HAD AT LEAST  
ONE DEMON  
PARENT.

THE  
MONSTER  
CAN'T SPEAK.  
THE VILLAGERS  
SAY IT'S IMMUNE  
TO INJURY  
AND PAIN.

GIVE ME  
YOUR  
SWORD.



IMMUNE  
TO PAIN IS  
IT?







IT APPEARS YOUR VILLAGERS WERE TELLING THE TRUTH.

LET ME TRY, FATHER.



SOMETHING TO IMPROVE THE POOR FOOL'S LOOKS.



IT'S A HAIR PIN. PRETTY ISN'T IT?



THERE! MY GIFT TO YOU.



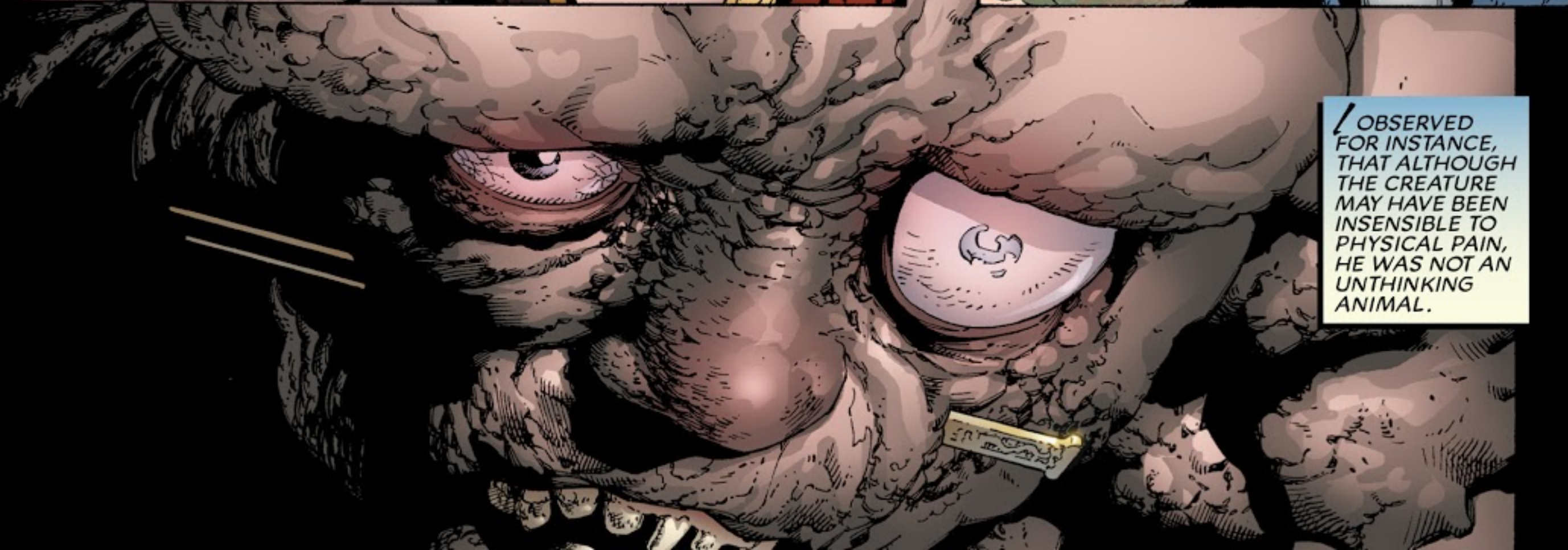
HA HA! I THINK HE LIKES IT.

MY NAME IS YUAN HENG. IN THOSE DAYS I WAS THE GOVERNOR'S STORY-TELLER, ENTERTAINING THE HOUSEHOLD WITH TALES FROM BYGONE TIMES.

THIS STORY IS MY OWN, ALTHOUGH MY ROLE IN IT IS LARGELY AS AN OBSERVER.



I OBSERVED FOR INSTANCE, THAT ALTHOUGH THE CREATURE MAY HAVE BEEN INSENSIBLE TO PHYSICAL PAIN, HE WAS NOT AN UNTHINKING ANIMAL.





OVER THE FOLLOWING MONTHS MY TALENTS AS STORYTELLER WERE RARELY CALLED UPON. THE CREATURE HAD TAKEN MY PLACE AS A SOURCE OF AMUSEMENT.

THE GOVERNOR WOULD CHALLENGE VISITORS TO CREATE NEW AND MORE ELABORATE TORTURES.

BUT NO ONE COULD EVER OUTDO SHIHONG'S APPETITE FOR CRUELTY.

HOLD HIS ARM.

I WONDER, WERE THE PEOPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE EVER TEMPTED TO FEAST ON YOU?

PWAAH!

IT SMELLS LIKE ROTTED PIG.

THIS MEAT IS ONLY FIT FOR A DOG!







I TOOK PITY ON THE SO-CALLED MONSTER AND DID WHAT I COULD TO COMFORT HIM.



I'VE BROUGHT AN OINTMENT FOR YOUR WOUNDS. IT CONTAINS TEASEL ROOT. IT WILL HELP TO HEAL YOU.



I NOTICED A PATCH OF NORMAL FLESH ON HIS CHEST, DIRECTLY ABOVE HIS HEART.



THE SKIN WAS SOFT AND WHITE, AS DELICATE AS A BABY'S.



...WHEN LI CHING RETURNED HE FOUND THE DRAGON'S MOTHER DISTRAUGHT.

AS I TENDED HIM, I RECOUNTED THE TALE OF THE WARRIOR LI CHING.

"I TOLD YOU TO USE ONLY ONE DROP FROM THE MAGIC VASE TO GIVE THE VILLAGE THE RAIN IT NEEDED. YET YOU USED TWENTY."



HE LISTENED AS ATTENTIVELY AS A CHILD.

LI CHING REPLIED THAT THE VILLAGERS HAD BEEN GOOD TO HIM. ONE DROP SEEMED TOO LITTLE TO REPAY THEIR KINDNESS.



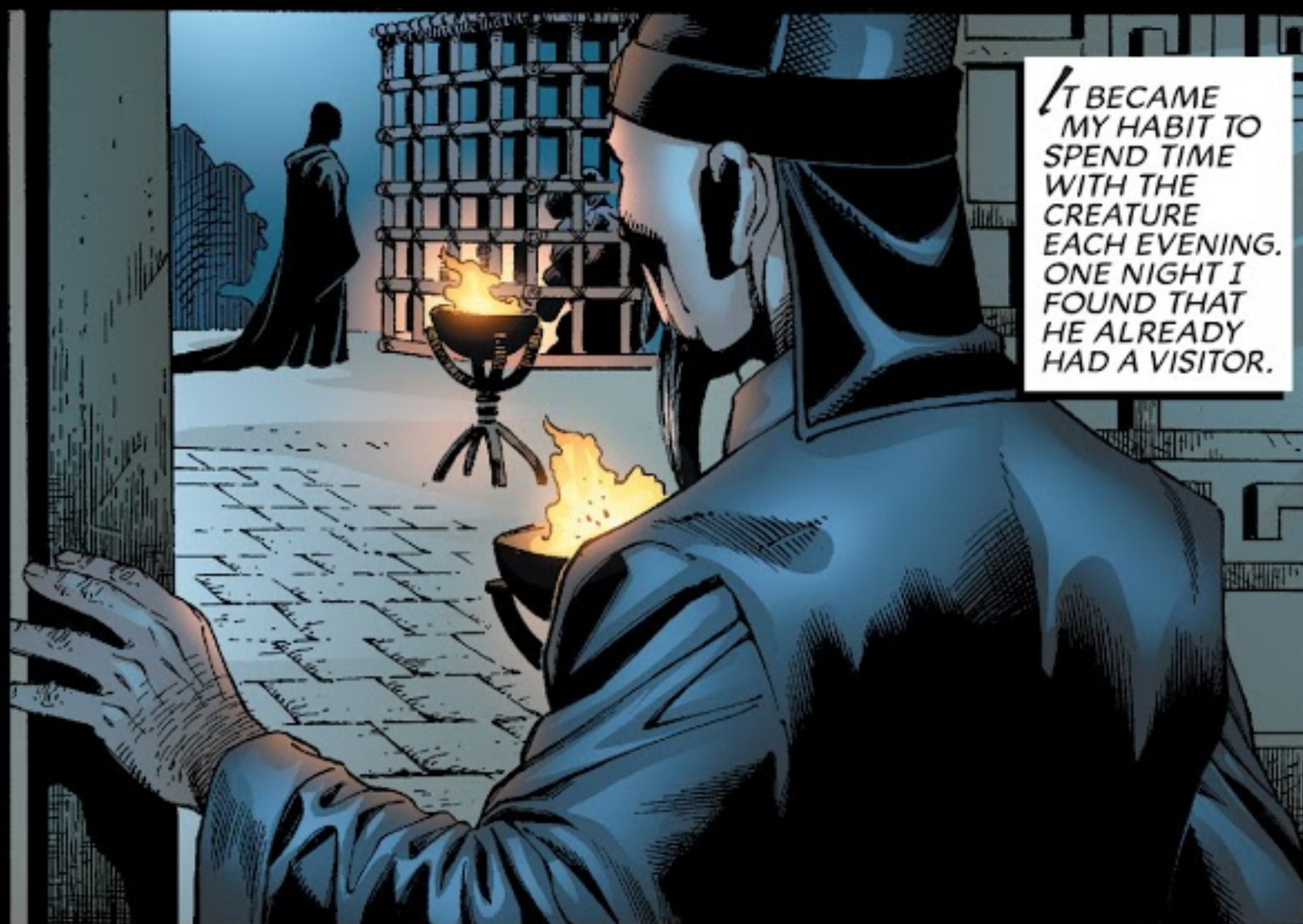
"YOU FOOL!" CRIED THE WOMAN, "EACH DROP FROM HEAVEN REPRESENTS ONE FOOT OF WATER ON EARTH. YOU HAVE CAUSED A GREAT FLOOD."

"THE VILLAGE IS DESTROYED!"



AS I FINISHED MY STORY, I BELIEVE HE SMILED.





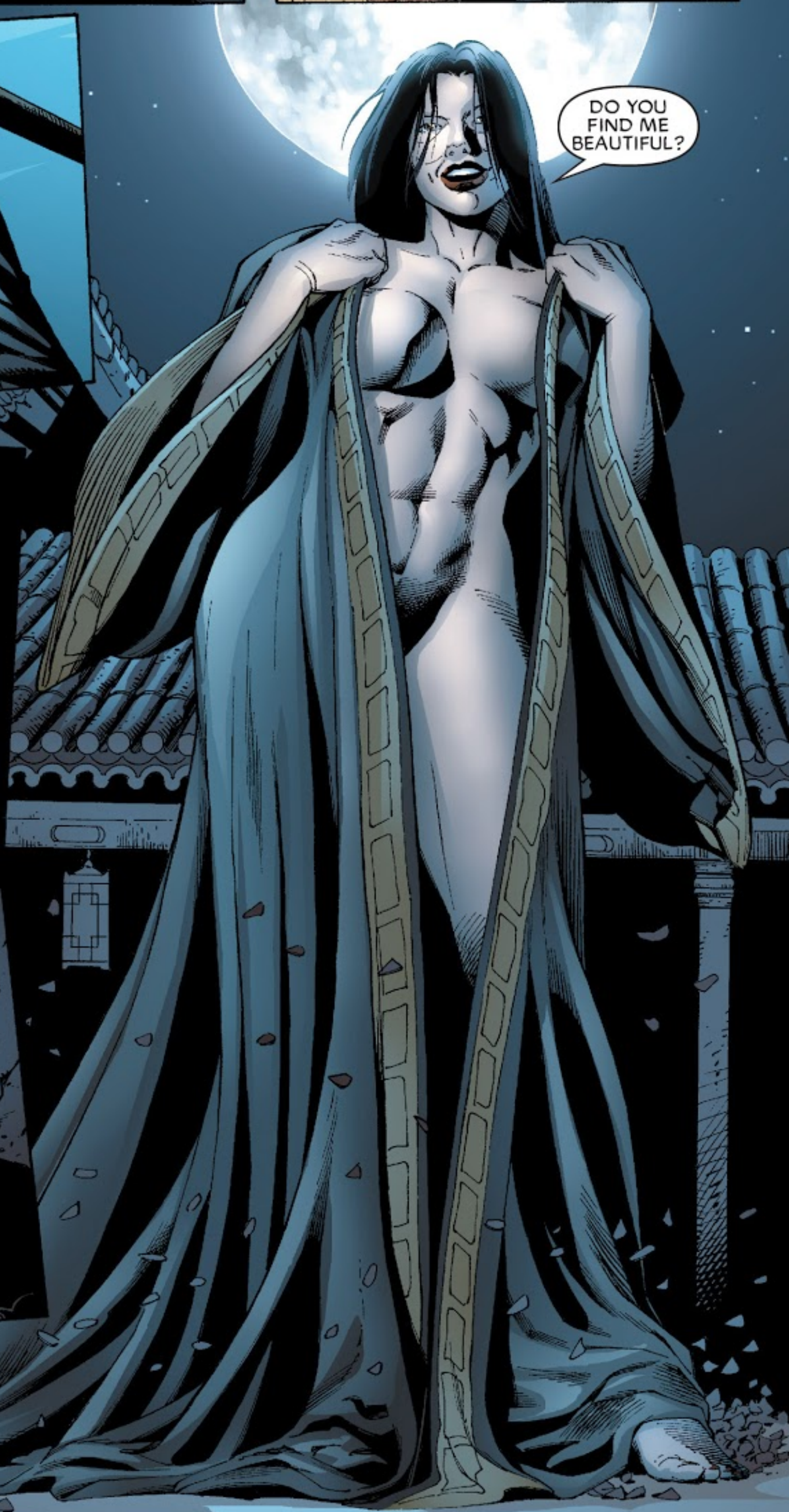
IT BECAME  
MY HABIT TO  
SPEND TIME  
WITH THE  
CREATURE  
EACH EVENING.  
ONE NIGHT I  
FOUND THAT  
HE ALREADY  
HAD A VISITOR.



THE  
STORYTELLER  
SAYS YOU ARE  
NOT A  
MONSTER.

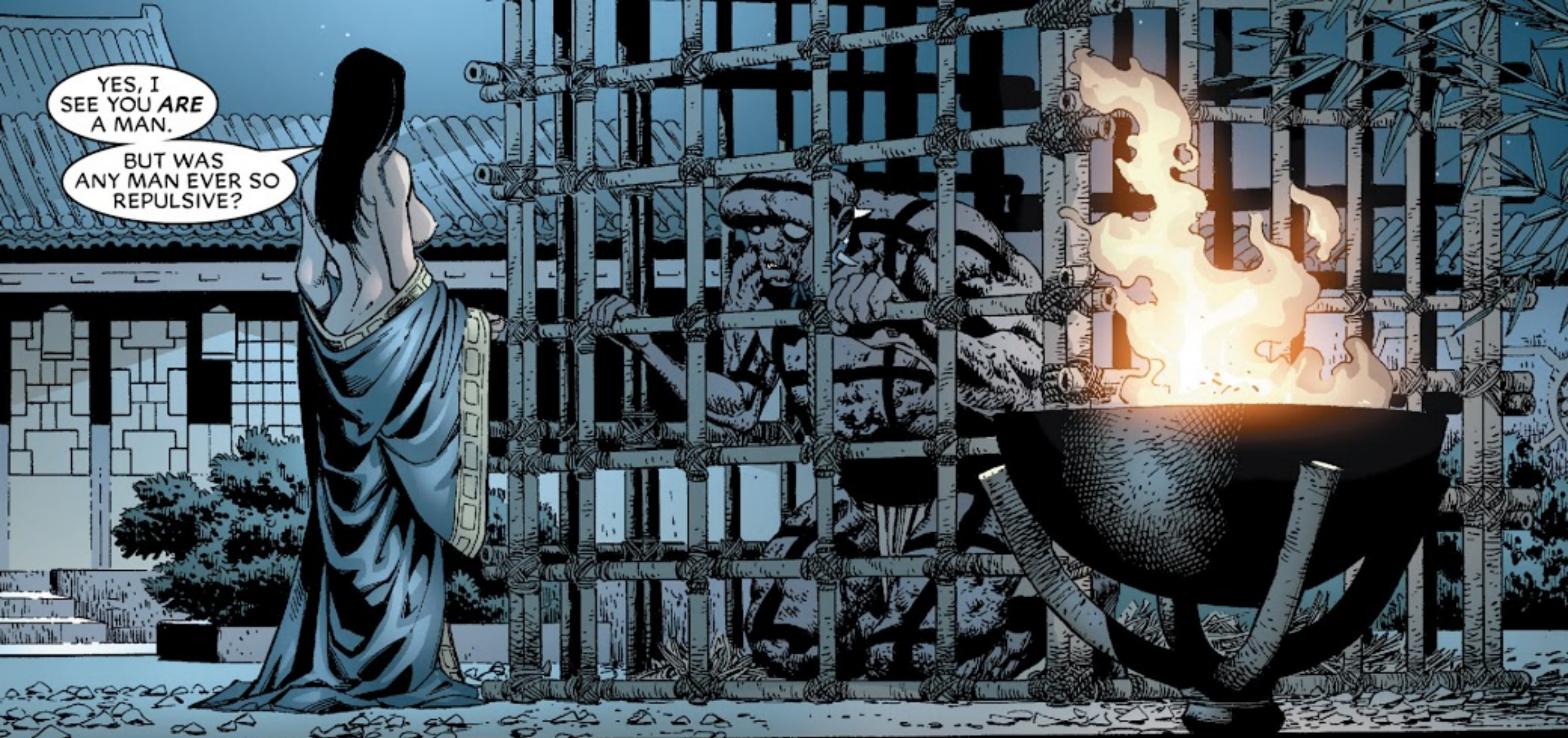


HE  
BELIEVES  
YOU HAVE  
THE  
FEELINGS  
AND  
INSTINCTS  
OF A  
MAN.



DO YOU  
FIND ME  
BEAUTIFUL?





YES, I  
SEE YOU ARE  
A MAN.

BUT WAS  
ANY MAN EVER SO  
REPULSIVE?



POOR  
THING.

YOU  
WILL NEVER  
KNOW A  
WOMAN'S  
LOVE.



WILL YOU  
PLEASURE  
YOURSELF  
WITH  
THOSE FILTHY  
HANDS?



THINK OF  
ME IN YOUR  
DREAMS,  
MONSTER.



HER LAUGHTER  
PIERCED THE  
NIGHT AIR LIKE  
SPLINTERED GLASS.

I KNEW THEN, THAT  
THERE WERE NO LIMITS  
TO SHIHONG'S CRUELTY  
AND I PRAYED THAT THE  
GODS WOULD BRING  
DOWN A JUST PUNISHMENT  
ON HER PERFECT HEAD.

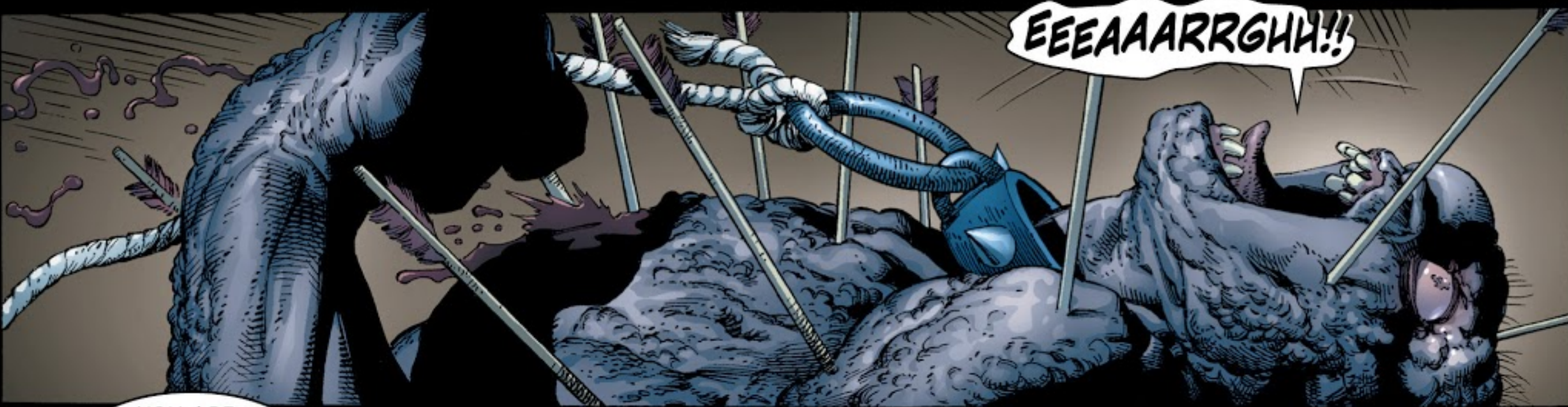






I'LL WAGER MY BEST HORSE AGAINST THE PRICE OF A MULE YOUR MAN CANNOT HIT THE MONSTER BLINDFOLD.

YOU HEAR THAT, YANG?



EEEEARRGHH!!



YOU ARE ONE HORSE THE RICHER, MY LORD. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE LOST YOUR CROWN.

HE WON'T LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER SUNRISE.

TOO BAD. WE WILL HAVE TO DEPEND ON YOUR STALE OLD YARNS TO DISTRACT US THROUGH THE WINTER NIGHTS.



THE CREATURE WAS CARRIED TO HIS CAGE WHERE I DID MY BEST TO RELIEVE HIS PAIN. I COULD SEE FROM HIS EYES THAT HE KNEW HE WAS DYING.

YOU ARE GOING TO A BETTER WORLD THAN THIS, MY POOR FRIEND.

LET US HOPE SO.

WHO ARE YOU?

I HAVE BEEN SENT BY LORD MALEBOLGIA.

HIS KINGDOM IS A LONG WAY FROM HERE.

LEAVE US, STORY-TELLER. IT'S YOUR 'FRIEND' I HAVE COME TO SEE.

THE STRANGER'S WORDS SENT AN INEXPLICABLE CHILL THROUGH MY VEINS.

I KNOW YOUR DREAMS, CHENGLEI. I CAN MAKE THEM REAL.

HOW COULD HE KNOW THE CREATURE'S NAME?

WHO IS THAT MAN? WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

WHAT MAN?

THE STRANGER WAS GONE AND THE CREATURE, CHENGLEI, WAS AT PEACE.



EVEN IN DEATH  
CHENGLEI'S  
BODY DID NOT  
ESCAPE ABUSE.  
THE GOVERNOR  
EXHIBITED HIS  
ROTTING  
CARCASS IN A  
CAGE OUTSIDE  
HIS PALACE.

HERE IT  
HUNG  
AS THE  
SEASONS  
PASSED.

ONE DAY, WHEN THE WINTER  
SNOW HAD SETTLED ACROSS  
THE LAND, A LONE RIDER  
APPROACHED THE PALACE.

I WOULD  
SPEAK TO  
YOUR MASTER,  
ZHENG LI.

I'M TOLD  
YOU ARE IN  
NEED OF  
WARRIORS.

IT TAKES  
MORE THAN AN  
OUTLANDISH MASK  
AND COSTUME TO  
MAKE A WARRIOR.  
YOU WOULD DO  
BETTER TO SEEK  
EMPLOYMENT AS  
AN ACTOR.

BRING OUT YOUR BEST  
FIGHTER. I'LL PAINT THE SNOW  
WITH HIS BLOOD.

HA!  
YOU'RE A  
FOOL, BUT  
A BRAVE  
ONE.

SUMMON  
YANG SHIH!

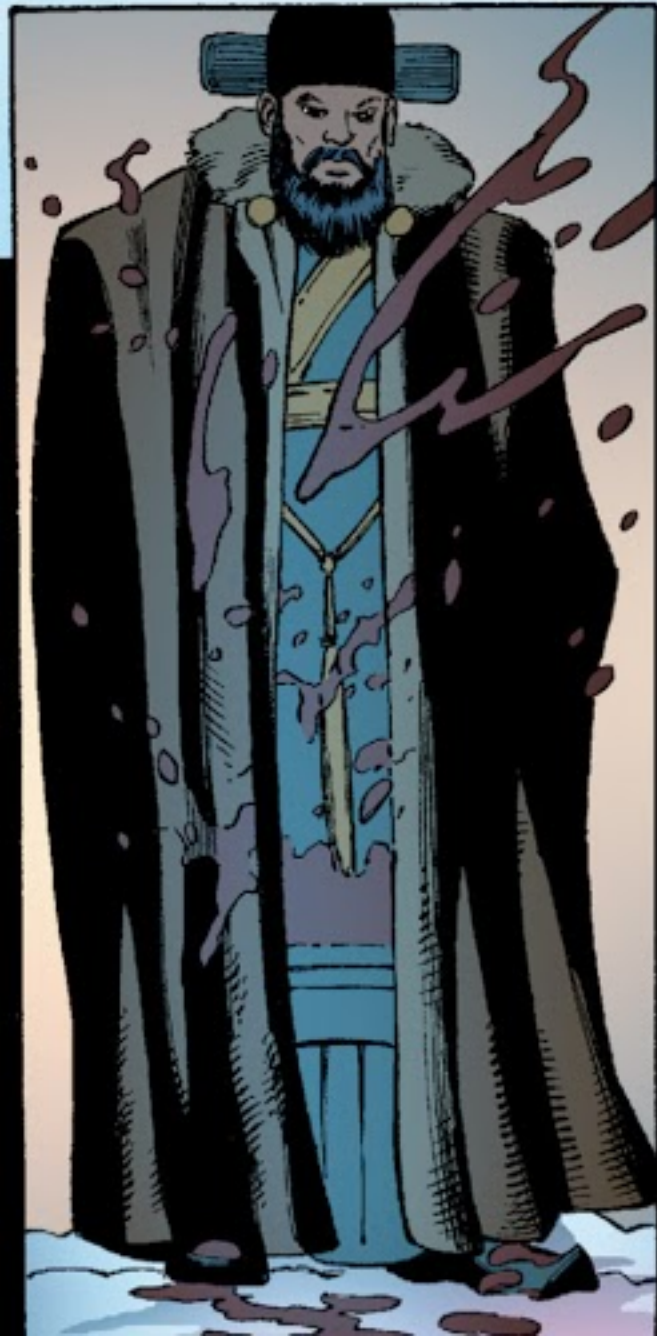




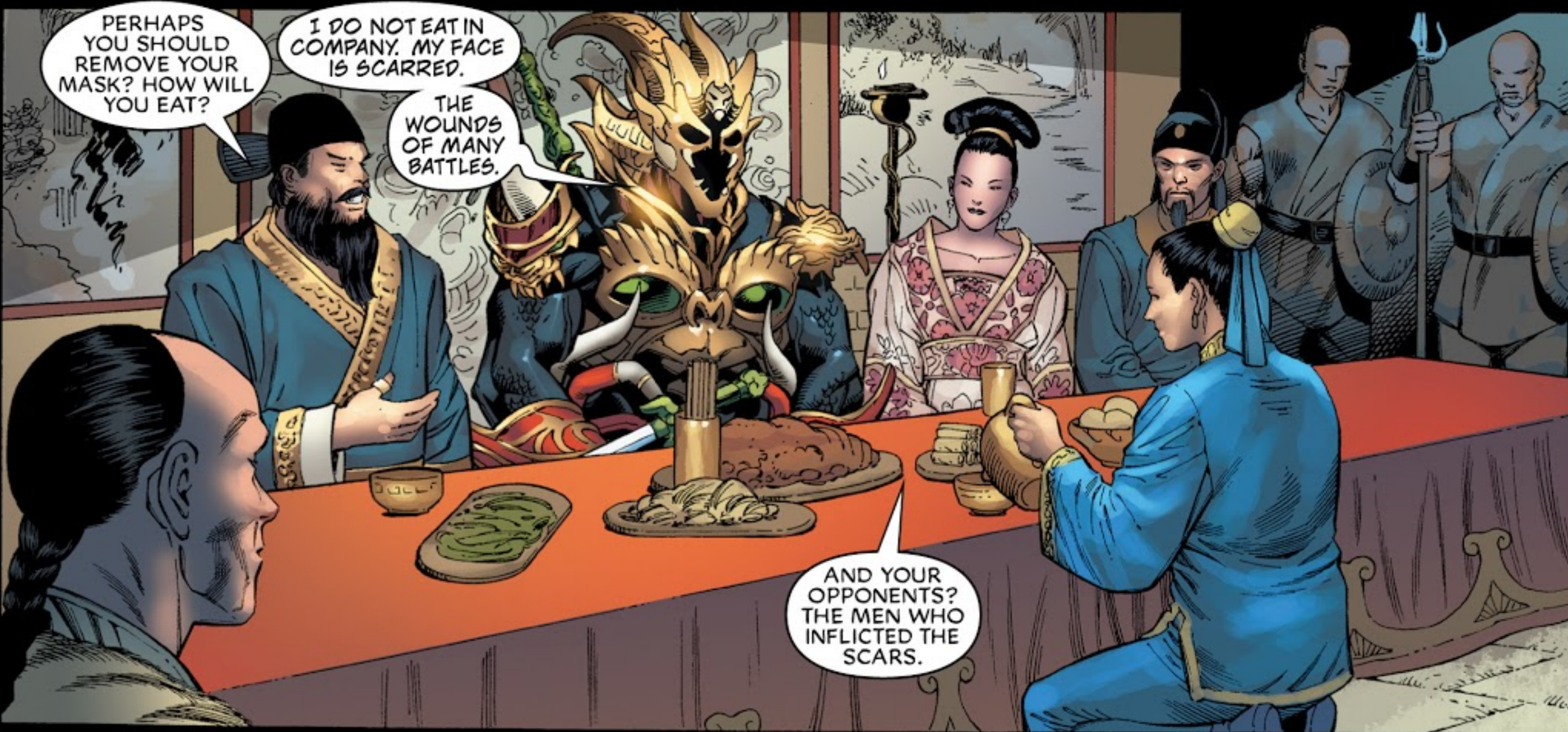
THE STRANGER SAID SOMETHING TO YANG. NO ONE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR BUT YANG HIMSELF. THE WORDS HAD A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON HIM.











PERHAPS YOU SHOULD REMOVE YOUR MASK? HOW WILL YOU EAT?

I DO NOT EAT IN COMPANY. MY FACE IS SCARRED.

THE WOUNDS OF MANY BATTLES.

AND YOUR OPPONENTS? THE MEN WHO INFLICTED THE SCARS.



I HAVE TAKEN AN OATH THAT NO ONE WHO INJURES ME WILL LIVE TO BOAST OF IT.

WE THINK ALIKE MY FRIEND. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MERCY IN THE HEARTS OF GREAT MEN. NO ROOM FOR SENTIMENT.

WE MUST BE AS HARD AND COLD AS STEEL.



I AGREE.

SHEATH YOUR SWORD!

I COULD HAVE WARNED THEM BUT I DID NOT HAVE THE WILL. MY TONGUE FELT AS IF IT HAD TURNED TO WOOD IN MY MOUTH.



NONSENSE! I'M SURE OUR FRIEND DOES NOT INTEND TO USE IT ON ME.

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

A DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR PHILOSOPHY.





YOU SEE HOW PERFECT THIS BLADE IS.

THERE WAS PERHAPS THE FAINTEST BLUR OF MOVEMENT, BUT THE BLADE WAS TOO FAST FOR THE EYE TO FOLLOW.



COLD, HARD STEEL. NO MERCY. AND OBSERVE...

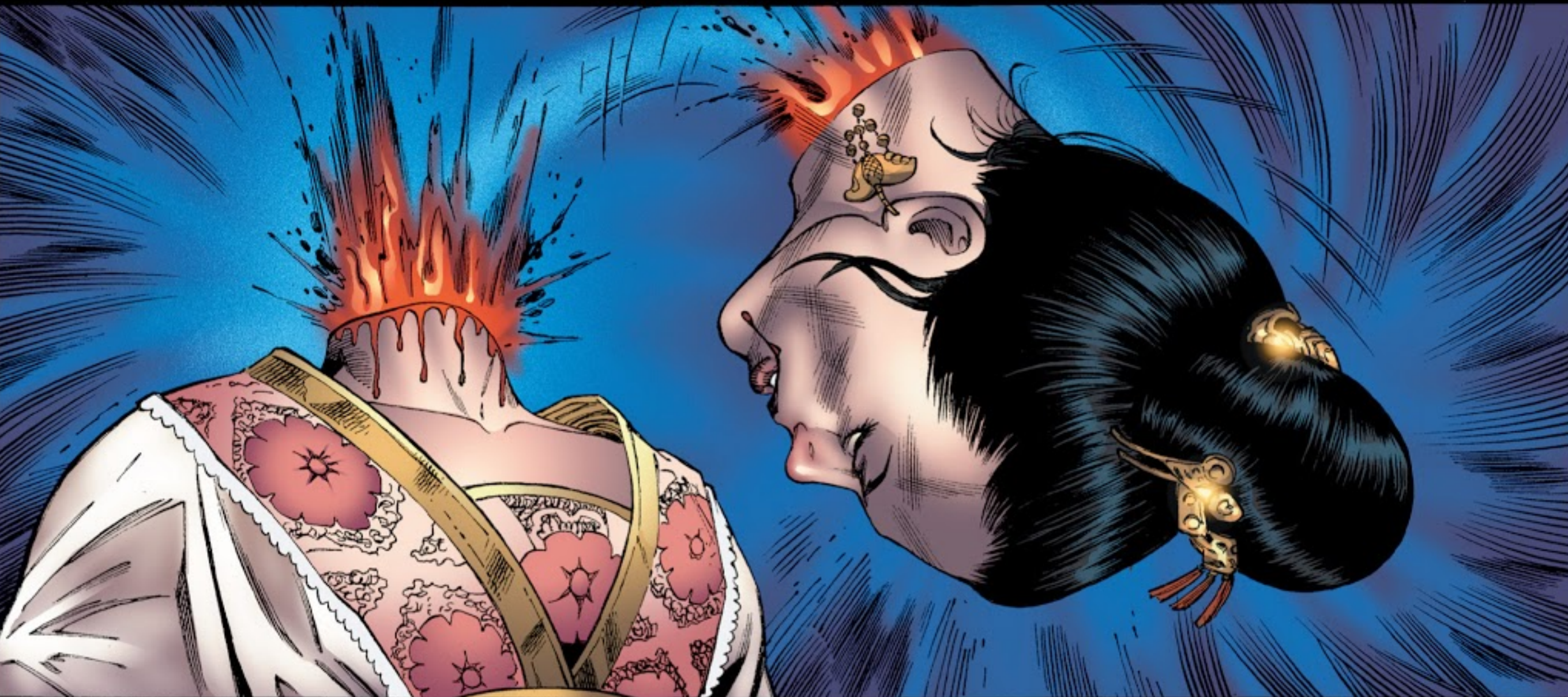
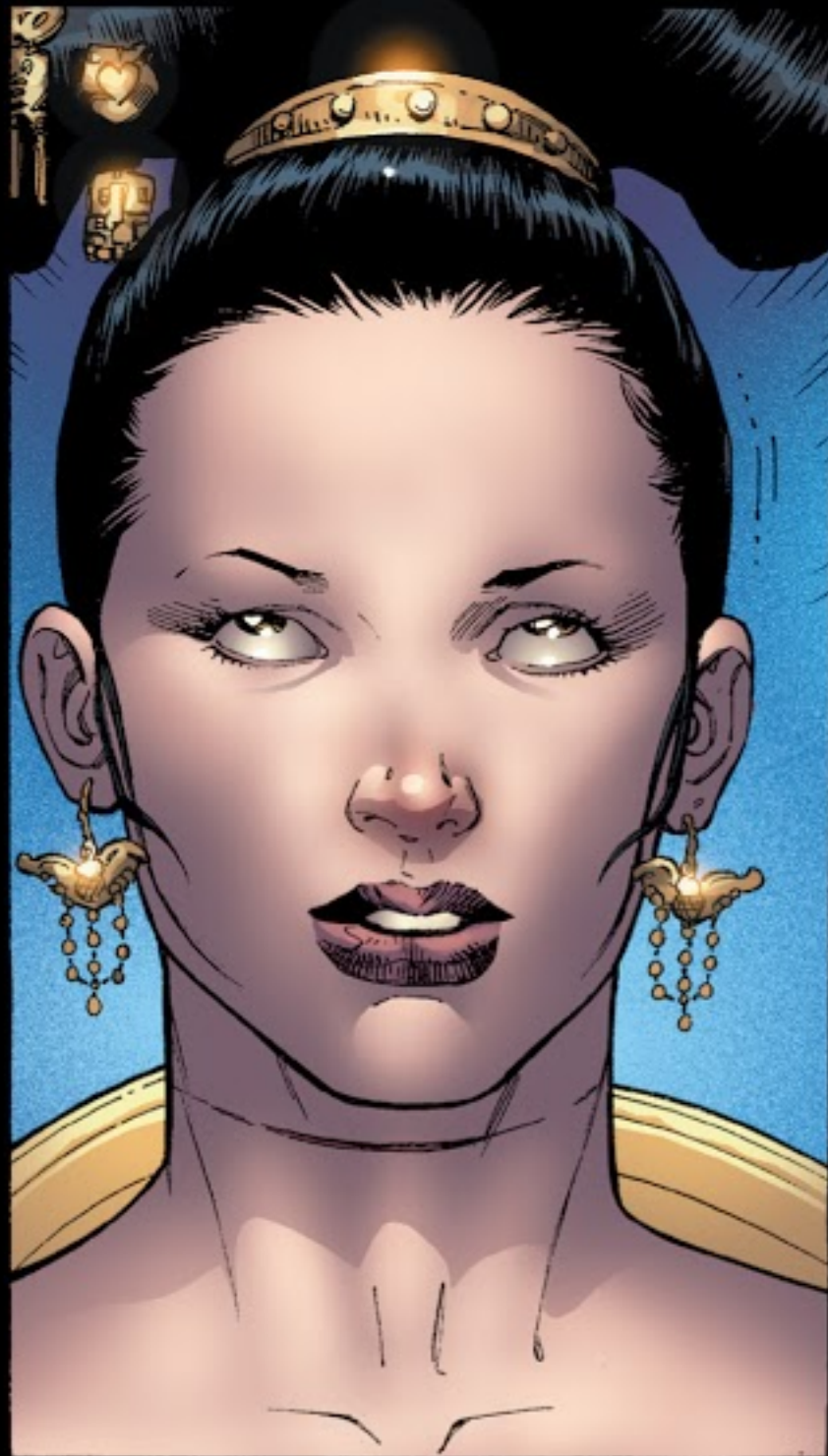
...NOT A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD.

BLOOD?  
WHY WOULD THERE BE BLOOD?



SHE SIGHED ONCE. SOFTLY, AS IF SOMETHING HAD DISPLEASED HER.

aaaaa





REMEMBERED  
THE NIGHT WHEN  
SHIHONG VISITED  
THE CREATURE.  
THE NIGHT I  
PRAYED TO THE  
GODS TO BRING  
DOWN A JUST  
PUNISHMENT...

WHAT-?

...UPON  
HER  
PERFECT  
HEAD...

SHIHONG!


N-N-O-O-O-O-

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

A MAN,  
GOVERNOR  
ZHENG.

A MAN  
WITHOUT  
MERCY.





THE STRANGER  
HAD PROMISED THE  
CREATURE THAT  
HE WOULD FULFILL  
HIS DREAMS.

WHAT  
DREAMS  
THEY MUST  
HAVE BEEN!

DID MY TALES OF  
GHOSTS, DEMONS  
AND WARRIORS  
FROM HELL SOW  
THE SEED FOR  
THIS TERRIBLE  
VENGEANCE?





HE  
SLEW  
THEM  
ALL.



HE TOOK HIS  
REVENGE ON  
EVERY HAND  
THAT WAS  
EVER RAISED  
AGAINST HIM.



EVERY TONGUE  
THAT CURSED HIM  
OR SPAT ON HIM.  
EVERY EYE THAT  
ONCE CAST A LOOK  
OF CONTEMPT ON  
HIS TWISTED BODY.



OF ALL THE  
MEN AND  
WOMEN IN  
THE PALACE,  
I ALONE  
WAS SPARED.





MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT BLOODY NIGHT. THE PALACE DECAYS DAY BY DAY AND IT IS MOSTLY IN RUINS, EXCEPT FOR THE FEW ROOMS I OCCUPY.

I AM OLD NOW AND MY OWN DEATH APPROACHES, BUT STILL I TELL MY TALE TO THOSE WHO MAKE THE JOURNEY TO HEAR IT.

WHAT THEY REALLY COME FOR, OF COURSE, IS TO SEE THE BODY.

I TOOK THE CREATURE, WHOSE MOTHER NAMED HIM CHENGLEI, OUT OF THE CAGE AND BURIED HIM.

IN HIS PLACE I PUT THE BODY OF THE GOVERNOR.

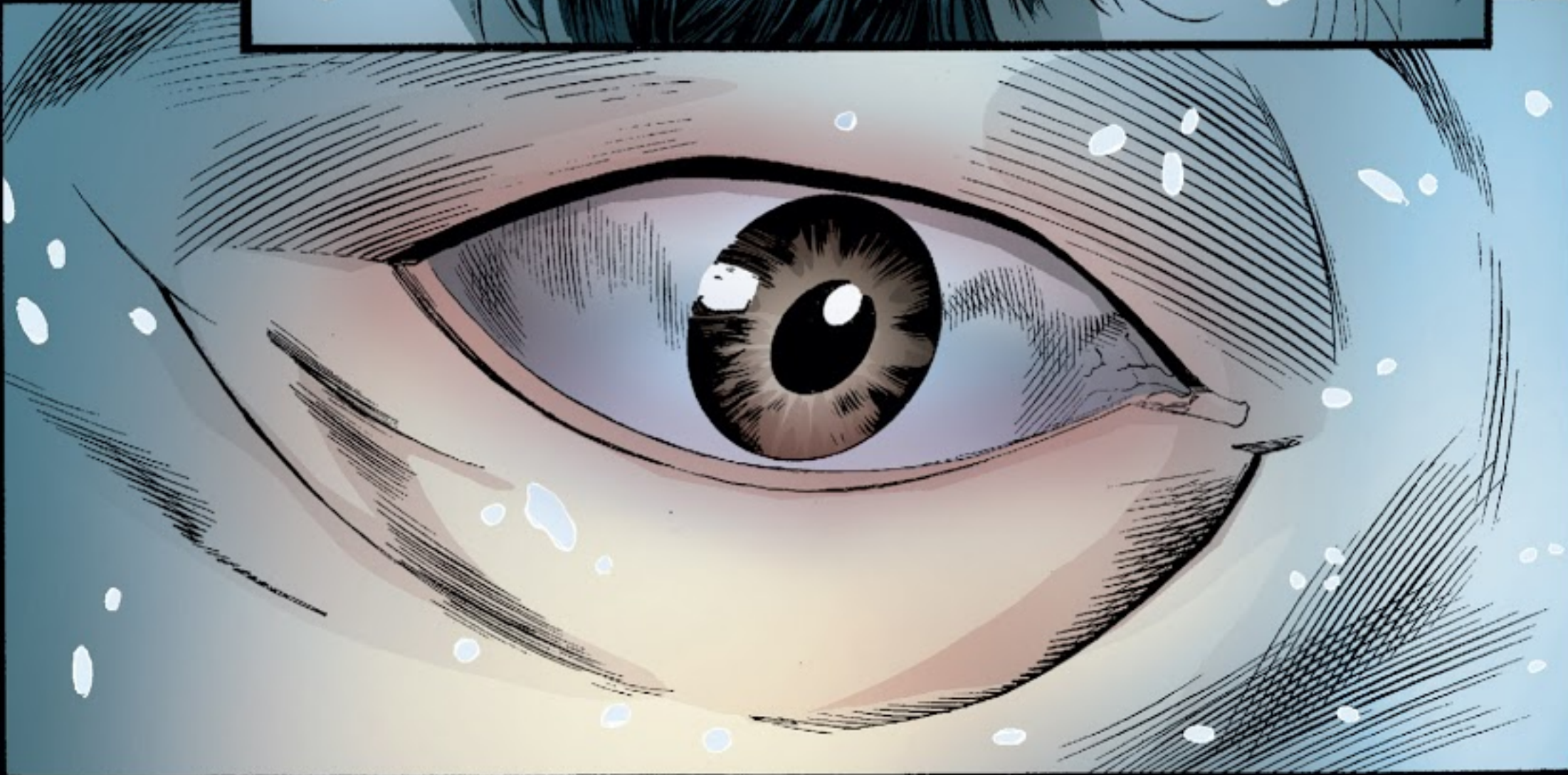
THERE WAS NO MARK UPON HIM. IT WAS NOT THE WARRIOR'S SWORD THAT KILLED HIM.

PERHAPS IT WAS FEAR ALONE.


IT IS A GREAT CURIOSITY. ALL THE YEARS THE BODY HAS HUNG HERE, IT HAS NEVER DETERIORATED. IT DOES NOT DECAY.

NO PREDATOR COMES TO FEED ON IT, NEITHER CARRION CROW NOR WORM, NOR MAGGOT.










AND THE  
CREATURE  
WHO  
BECAME A  
WARRIOR?

IN MY DREAMS I  
STILL SEE HIM  
RIDING AWAY ALONE,  
FROM THE SCENE OF  
BLOODY SLAUGHTER.



BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO  
SWEAR THEY SAW HIM THAT  
NIGHT AT THE HEAD OF A  
COLUMN OF HORSEMEN.



A BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN RODE  
AT HIS HEEL.

THEY SAY A FIERY PORTAL  
OPENED BEFORE THEM  
AND THE WARRIOR LED  
HIS FOLLOWERS INTO THE  
MOUTH OF HELL.







ACCORDING TO  
LEGEND, THE  
WARRIOR RULES  
HIS OWN CORNER  
OF HELL WITH  
HIS CONCUBINE  
AT HIS SIDE...

... AND WHEN  
THEY MAKE LOVE  
HIS PASSION KNOWS  
NO BOUNDS.







HINE  
HABERLIN

THE VOICE-HEARERS  
PART ONE: SKIN DEEP

# SPAWN®



ISSUE 166 DIGITAL EDITION  
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CELIA EDDOWES HAS BEEN PICKING HER FINGERS SINCE SHE WAS TEN YEARS OLD.

IT'S A BAD HABIT.

IT'S UNHYGIENIC AND IT LOOKS TERRIBLE.



SHE NIBBLES ON HER FINGERS LIKE A RABBIT... PEELS THE STRIPS OF SKIN OFF WITH HER TEETH ...



...AND EATS THEM.



HER DOCTOR SAYS IT'S NERVOUS STRESS. SOME PEOPLE BITE THEIR NAILS. SOME PEOPLE PULL THEIR HAIR OUT, STRAND BY STRAND UNTIL THEY HAVE BALD PATCHES.

CELIA DOESN'T PULL HER HAIR OUT OR BITE HER NAILS.

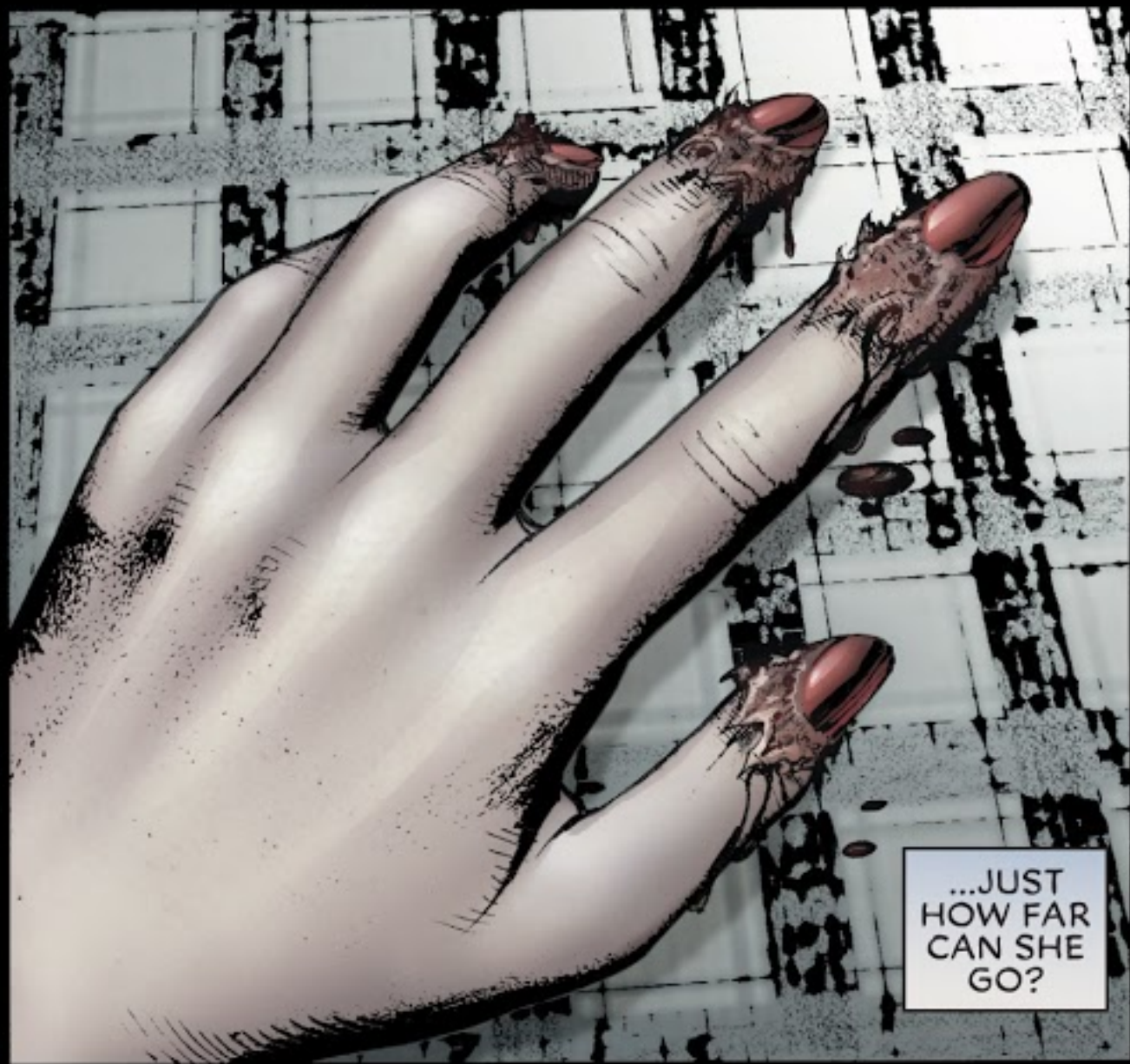
SHE TAKES GOOD CARE OF HER NAILS.

BUT SINCE THE WHITE LIGHT, SHE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STOP THE PICKING.



SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS. PICKING AND NIBBLING.

THE MURMURING VOICE IN HER HEAD KEEPS GOADING HER, CHALLENGING HER...



...JUST HOW FAR CAN SHE GO?





SURE, IT HURTS,  
BUT THE PAIN IS A  
LONG WAY OFF.

ALL THE WAY  
AT THE END OF  
HER ARMS.



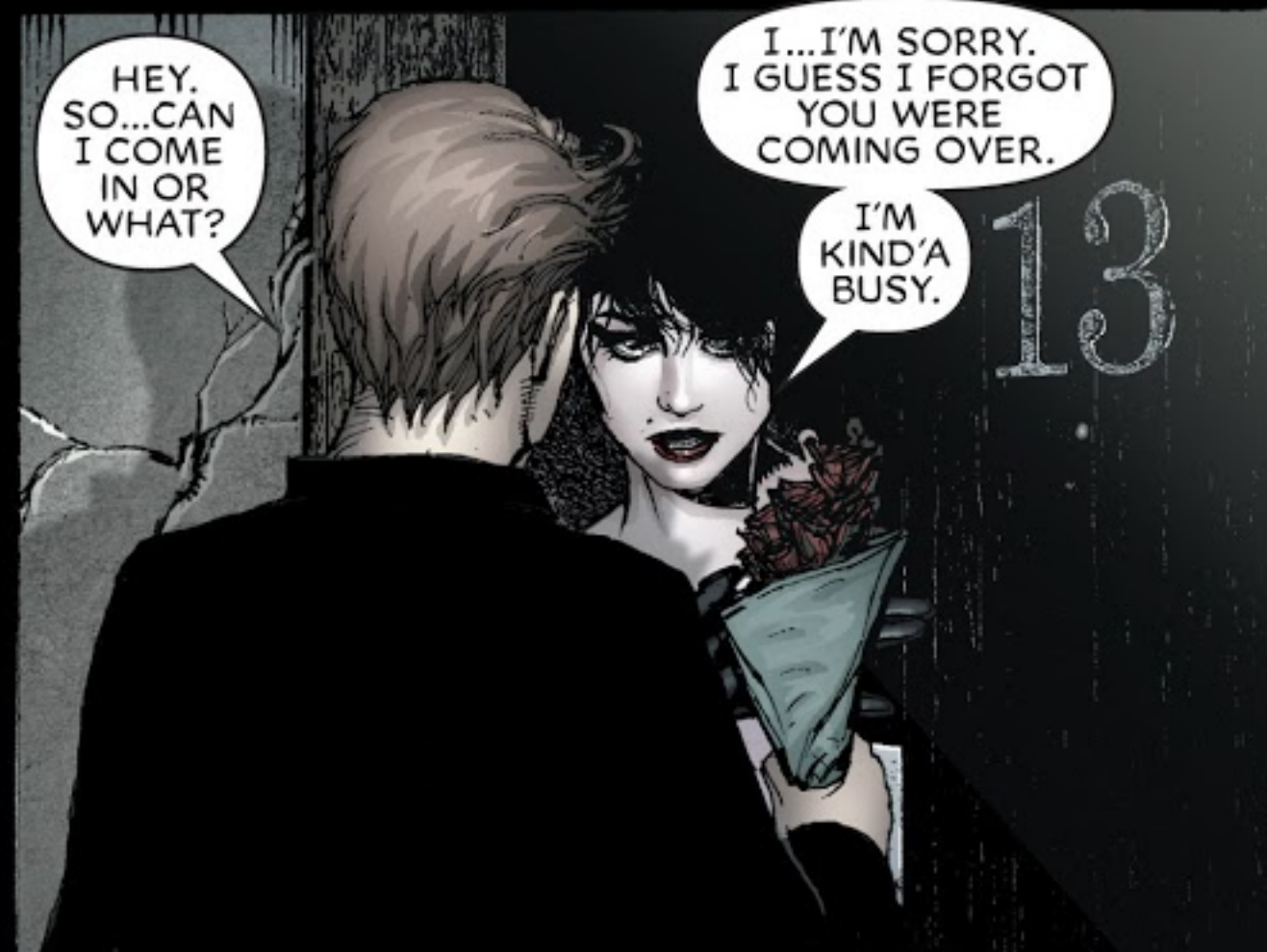
IT FEELS LIKE HER  
HANDS BELONG TO  
SOMEONE ELSE...



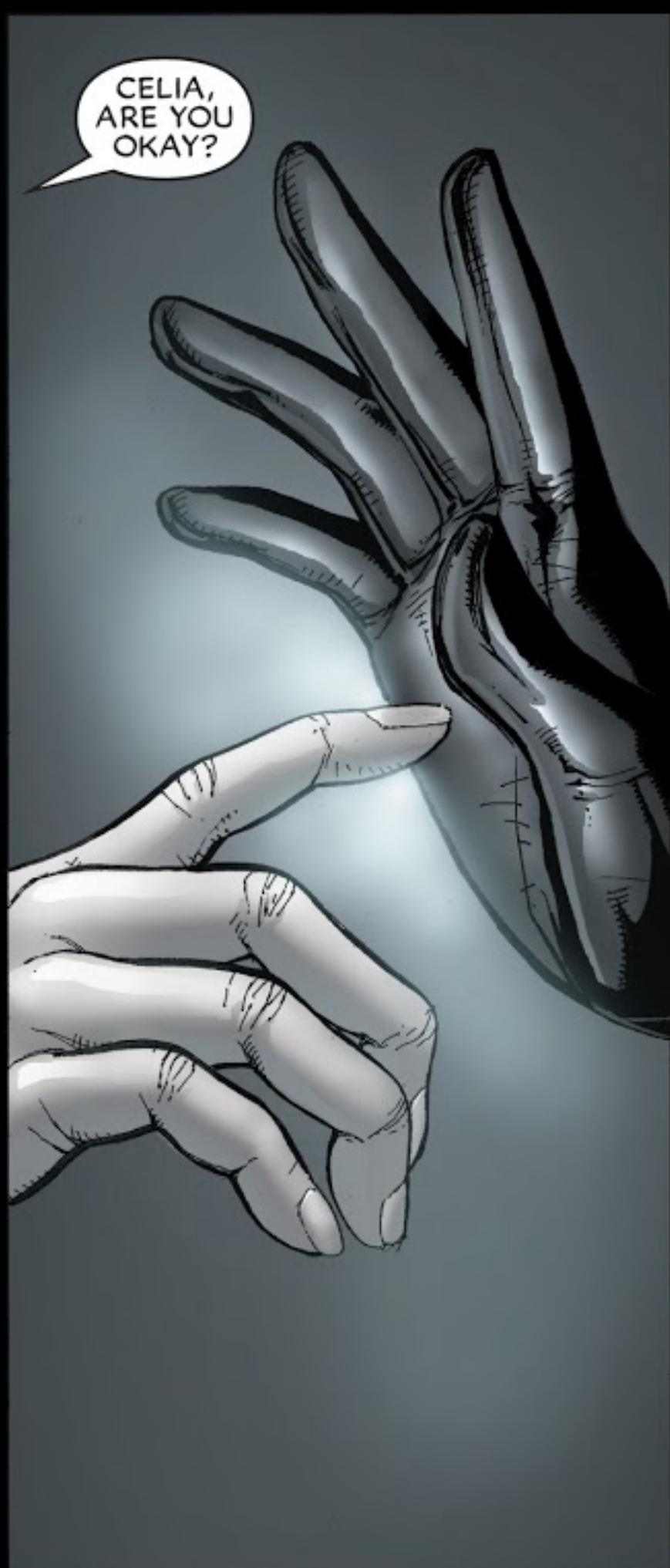
...AS IF SHE  
REALLY ISN'T  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR WHAT  
THEY DO AT ALL.











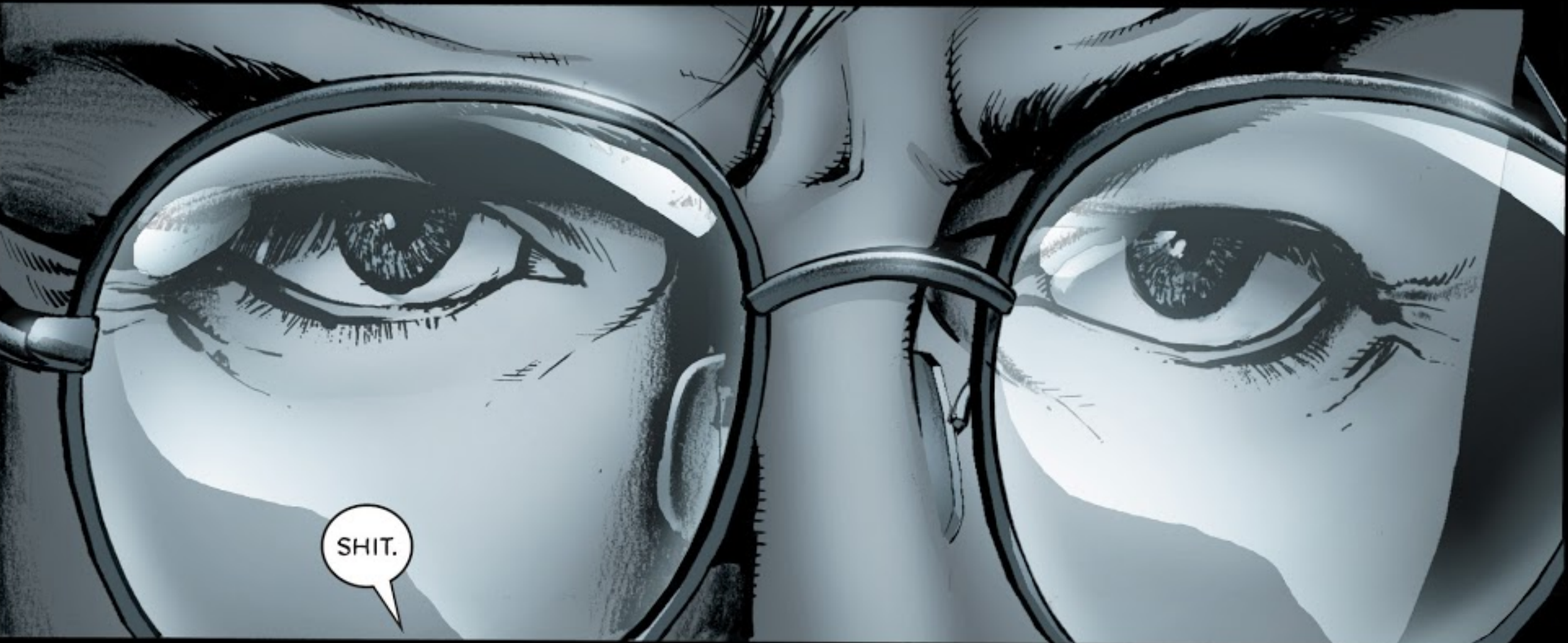










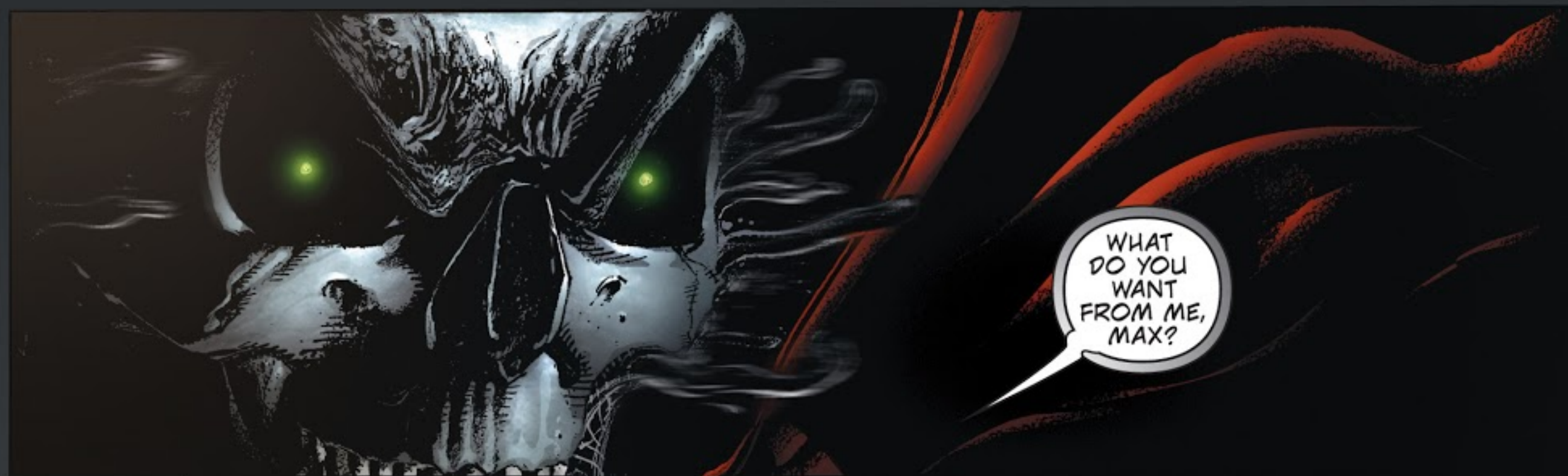




WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
HERE?



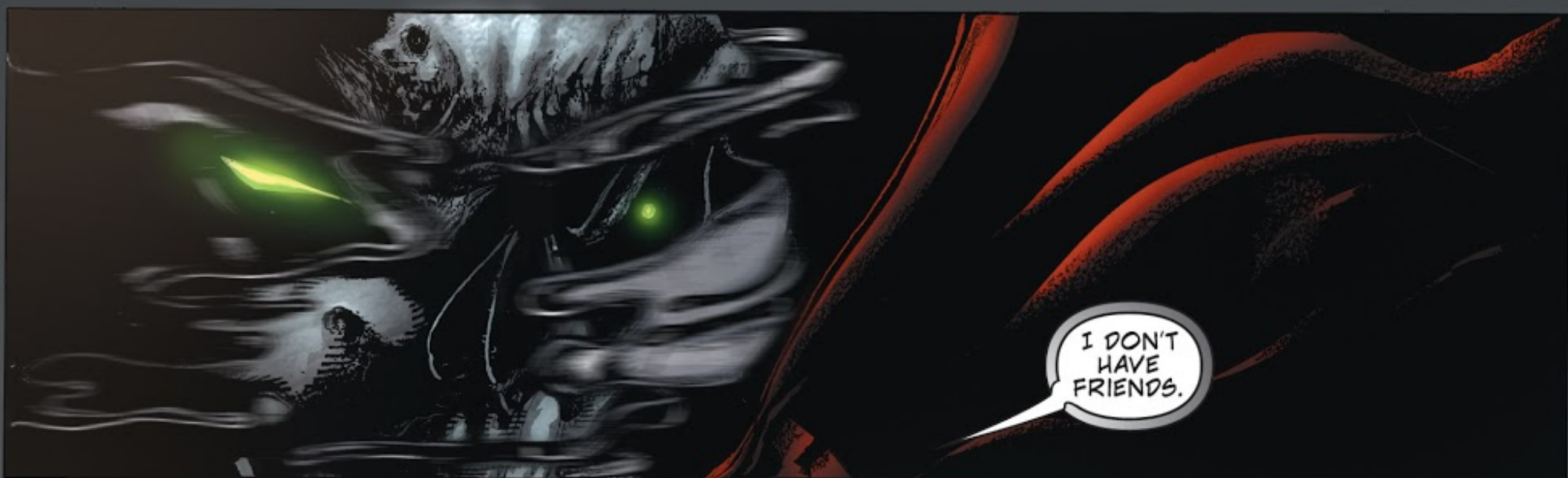




WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT  
FROM ME,  
MAX?



I CAME TO  
SEE HOW YOU'RE  
DOING. THAT'S  
WHAT FRIENDS  
DO.



I DON'T  
HAVE  
FRIENDS.



I COULD  
HAVE SWORN...  
IN FACT I DISTINCTLY  
REMEMBER, YOU SAID  
WE WERE YOUR  
FRIENDS. SAM  
AND ME.


THEN YOU  
SAID IF YOU  
DIDN'T COME  
BACK...

...YOU PRETTY  
MUCH IMPLIED  
THAT THE WORLD  
WOULD COME TO  
AN END.



IT DID.





OKAY. AS I  
REMEMBER THERE  
WERE RIVERS OF BLOOD,  
PLAGUES OF TOADS. WE  
HAD EARTHQUAKES.  
WE HAD ZOMBIES. IT  
WAS THE FREAKING  
APOCALYPSE.

THEN  
THERE WAS  
THIS BLINDING  
LIGHT AND  
EVERYTHING WAS  
SUNSHINE AND  
PETUNIAS.

SO WHAT  
HAPPENED  
IN BETWEEN?  
BECAUSE THAT'S  
WHERE MY  
MEMORY IS  
KIND OF  
FUZZY.



YOU  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
KNOW.

IF I  
DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
KNOW, I  
WOULDN'T  
ASK.




EVERYONE  
DIED.



EVERYONE?

DID I  
DIE?



EVERYONE.





NO.  
THERE IS  
NO MORE GOD.  
NO MORE  
DEVIL.

MY  
GOD.

WHAT  
DID YOU  
DO?

IF WE ALL  
DIED, THEN  
HOW...?



I  
BROUGHT  
YOU  
BACK.

I RE-MADE  
THE WORLD, JUST  
LIKE BEFORE, ONLY  
WITHOUT GOD  
AND SATAN.

THEY'RE  
GONE.



GONE?  
WHAT, YOU  
KILLED  
THEM?

YOU  
KILLED  
**GOD?**

THEY'RE NOT  
DEAD. THEY'RE BANISHED.  
THERE ARE FORCES IN  
THE UNIVERSE MORE  
POWERFUL...

Uh-huh.  
MORE  
POWERFUL  
THAN  
GOD.

RIGHT.



YOU ASKED.  
YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO BELIEVE IT. HEAVEN  
AND HELL ARE SEALED.  
NO MORE DEMONS  
AND ANGELS. NOT  
ON EARTH.

I'VE  
LOCKED THEM  
UP AND  
THROWN AWAY  
THE KEY.



MY  
GOD.

I KNOW...  
NO MORE  
GOD. I  
JUST...



...MY  
GOD...





DOES THAT SUIT YOU, MAX? I FIXED IT. YOU HAVE YOUR WORLD BACK.

NOW LEAVE ME ALONE.

I GUESS YOU DID A GOOD JOB.

I GUESS.

SO I CAN'T HELP WONDERING, NOW YOU'RE KING OF THE HILL...

HOW COME YOU'RE SITTING HERE IN WHAT... AND I'M BEING CHARITABLE HERE... IN WHAT IS **NOT** THE MOST DESIRABLE OF LOCATIONS WHEN YOU SHOULD BE THROWING A PA -



AAAAGH!



BLAM!



BECAUSE I DESERVE THIS!!

NUH-NOBODY DESERVES THIS.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE!





PUT ME DOWN AL. YOU DON'T SUH-SCARE ME.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

YOU SAVED THE PLANET. IN MY BOOK THAT CANCELS ALL DEBTS.



SO ANSWER MY QUESTION. WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!



WHAT DO I WANT? OKAY. THE THING IS... YOU SAY THERE'S NO MORE EVIL IN THE WORLD. NOTHING SUPERNATURAL. NO DEMONIC POSSESSION AND SO FORTH?



ONLY, UH... WHEN YOU PUT THE WORLD BACK TOGETHER... ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU DID IT RIGHT?

BECAUSE I THINK YOU MAY HAVE SCREWED UP.

NOT THAT I'M BLAMING YOU. ME, I CAN'T EVEN PUT A SET OF FLAT PACK FURNITURE TOGETHER. SO I'M NOT JUDGING YOU HERE...



CUT TO THE CHASE, TWITCH. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?





OKAY.  
HERE'S THE  
THING. A  
COUPLE OF  
DAYS BACK,  
WE HAD A  
MURDER.

COUGH

NOT UNUSUAL IN  
NEW YORK, EXCEPT  
THIS WAS THE FIRST  
SINCE... WHATEVER YOU  
CALL IT... THE WHITE  
LIGHT... WHATEVER.

SO IT WAS THE  
FIRST POST-  
APOCALYPSE ACT  
OF VIOLENCE. AND  
I FIGURED, THAT'S  
IT, *NOW* WE'RE  
GETTING BACK TO  
BUSINESS AS  
USUAL.

ONLY THIS WAS NOT  
THE USUAL. THIS WAS  
ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL  
SLAYINGS I EVER SAW. THE  
PERP BEAT HIS FLATMATE'S  
HEAD INTO A PULP.

USED A  
CAST IRON  
STATUETTE OF  
STAN LAUREL  
IF YOU CAN  
BELIEVE IT.

I CAN'T TELL  
YOU HOW  
MANY WAYS  
THAT IS SO  
WRONG.







THE PERP  
CALLED IT IN  
HIMSELF.

THIS GUY KILLS HIS  
BUDDY, THEN HE SITS  
DOWN WITH A BAG OF  
CHIPS AND WATCHES  
THE IDIOT BOX FOR A  
COUPLE OF HOURS  
THEN HE CALLS 911.

WHY DID  
YOU DO IT  
RUBEN? WE GOT  
THE CORPSE, WE  
GOT OPPORTUNITY,  
WE GOT YOUR  
PRINTS ALL OVER  
THE MURDER  
WEAPON.

ALL WE NEED IS  
THE MOTIVATION AND  
WE GOT US A NEAT  
LITTLE CASE FOR THE  
PROSECUTION.

SO  
WHAT DID  
THE POOR  
BASTARD  
DO?

DO?  
WHERE DO  
I START?

CIGARETTE BUTTS  
IN THE SINK, RINGS AROUND  
THE BATHTUB. HE DRINKS  
MY MILK. STRAIGHT FROM  
THE CARTON.

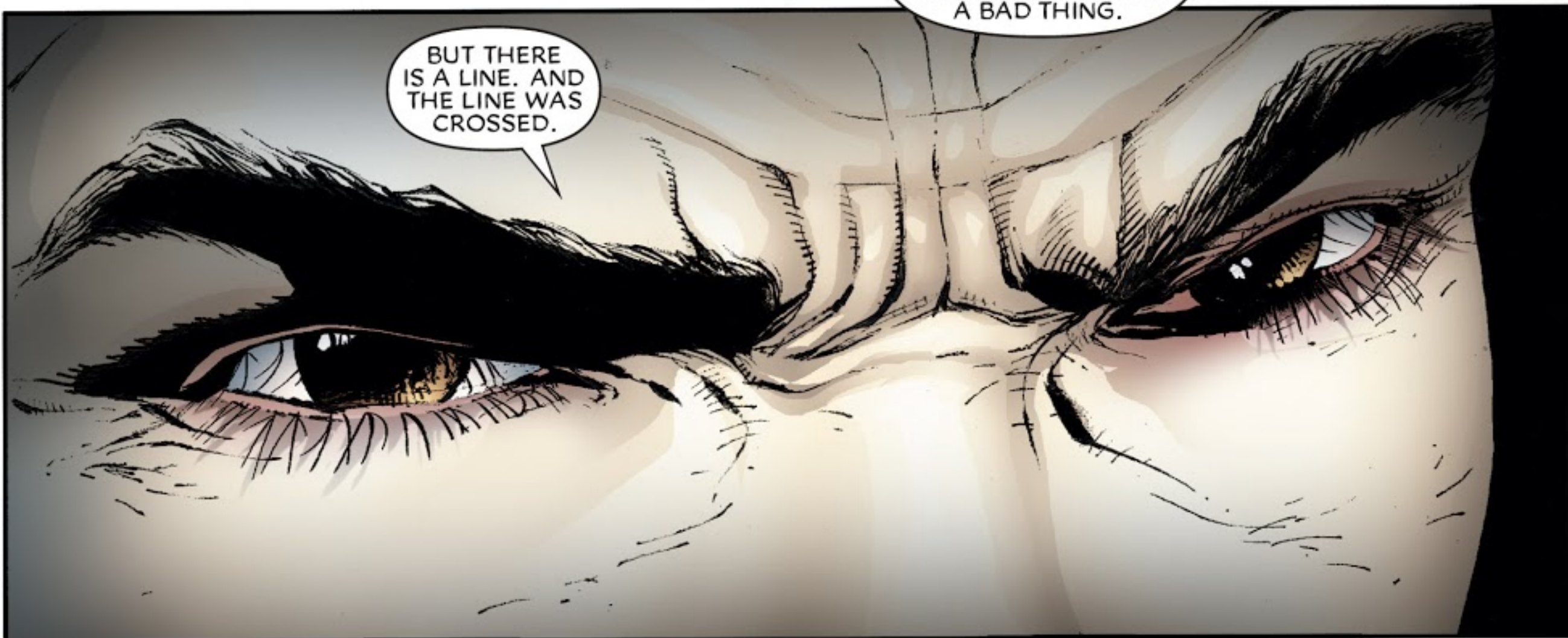


DO YOU  
KNOW HOW  
IRRITATING  
THAT IS?

IN YOUR  
CASE, I'M  
GUESSING  
VERY.

HEY I'M  
A TOLERANT  
KIND'A GUY,  
DETECTIVE.  
BUT  
TODAY...

I KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE GOING TO SAY.  
I OVER-REACTED. AND  
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DID  
A BAD THING.



BUT THERE  
IS A LINE. AND  
THE LINE WAS  
CROSSED.





THE VICTIM LEFT THE CAP OFF THE TOOTH-PASTE.

THAT'S WHY RUBEN KILLED HIM.

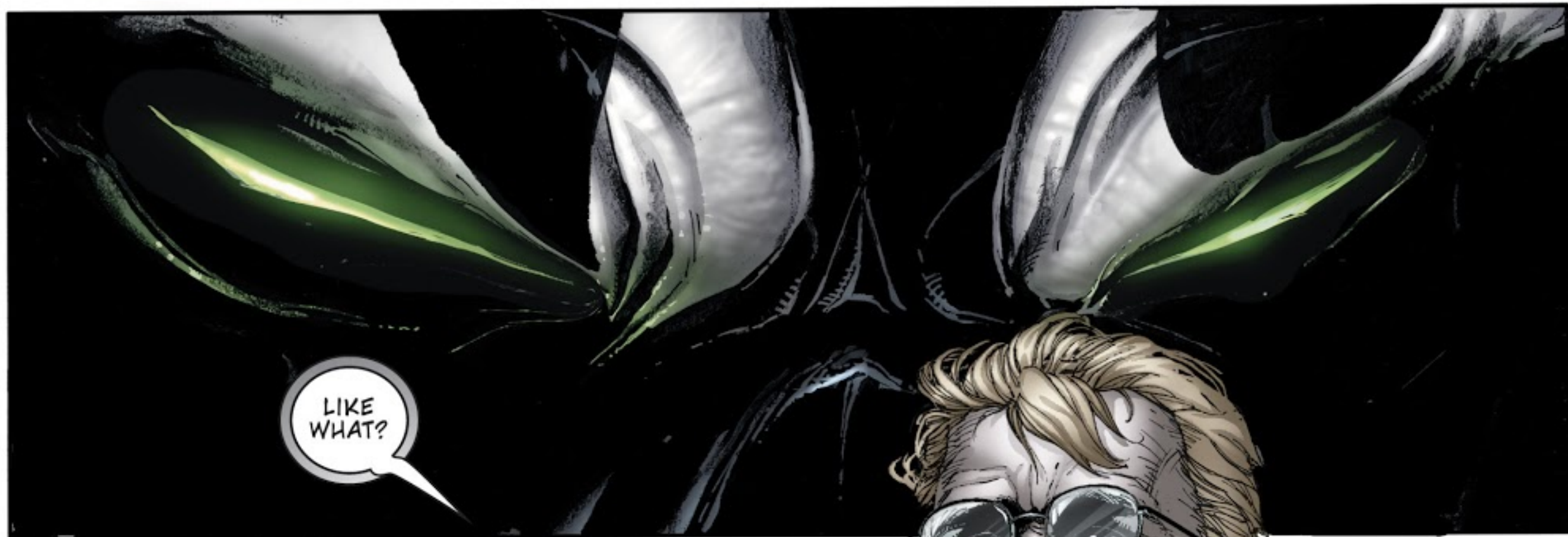
HE HIT THE GUY THIRTY-SEVEN TIMES WITH STAN LAUREL. THIRTY-SEVEN TIMES BEST ESTIMATE THE HEAD WAS A MESS SO...



PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS DO UGLY THINGS, MAX.

I CAN'T FIX THAT. I CAN'T CHANGE HUMAN NATURE.

THIS IS DIFFERENT. THIS IS NOT JUST ONE MURDER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THERE'S MORE.



LIKE WHAT?

LIKE CELIA EDDOWES. TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD. ART SCHOOL DROPOUT. SHE HAS AN APARTMENT RIGHT ABOVE OUR WHACK-JOB CRIME SCENE.

CELIA HAS A BOYFRIEND. JOEY LEBOWSKI. THE POOR SAP IS TOTALLY SMITTEN WITH HER. FOR WEEKS HE'S BEEN WORKING UP TO PROPOSING TO HER. SHE'S BEEN ACTING WEIRD, BLOWING HOT AND COLD AND IT'S DRIVING HIM CRAZY. WILL SHE, WON'T SHE?

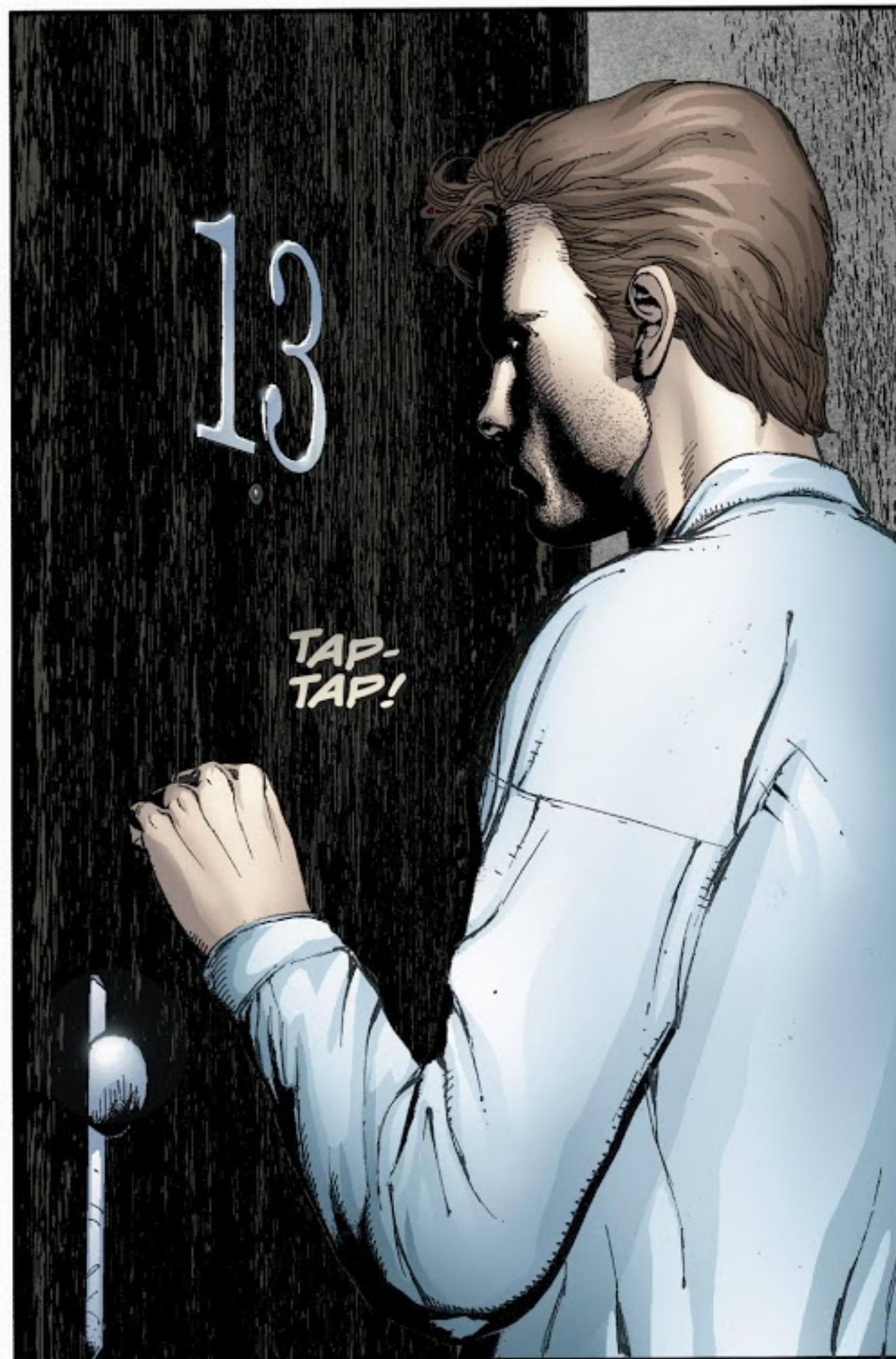
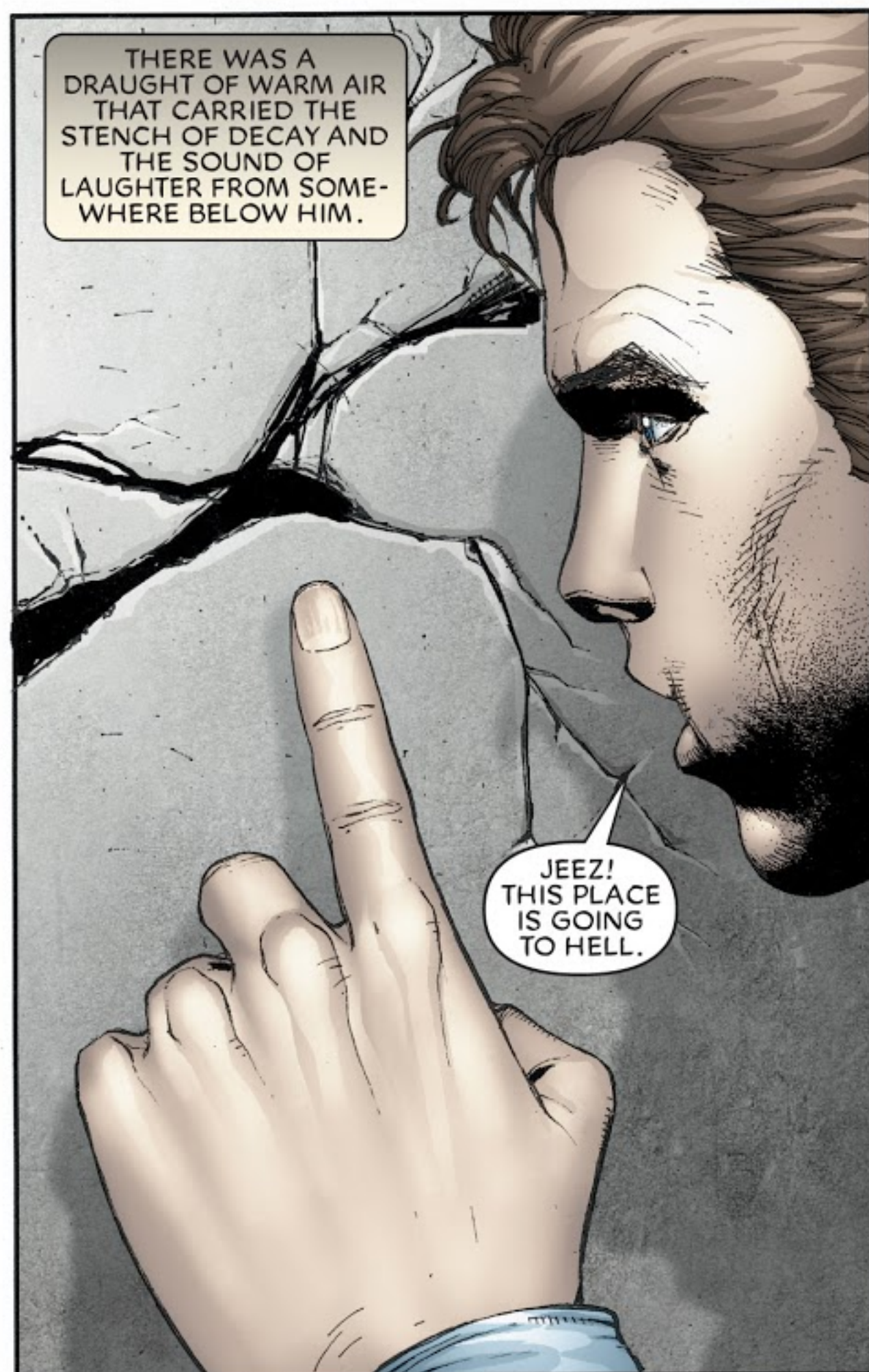
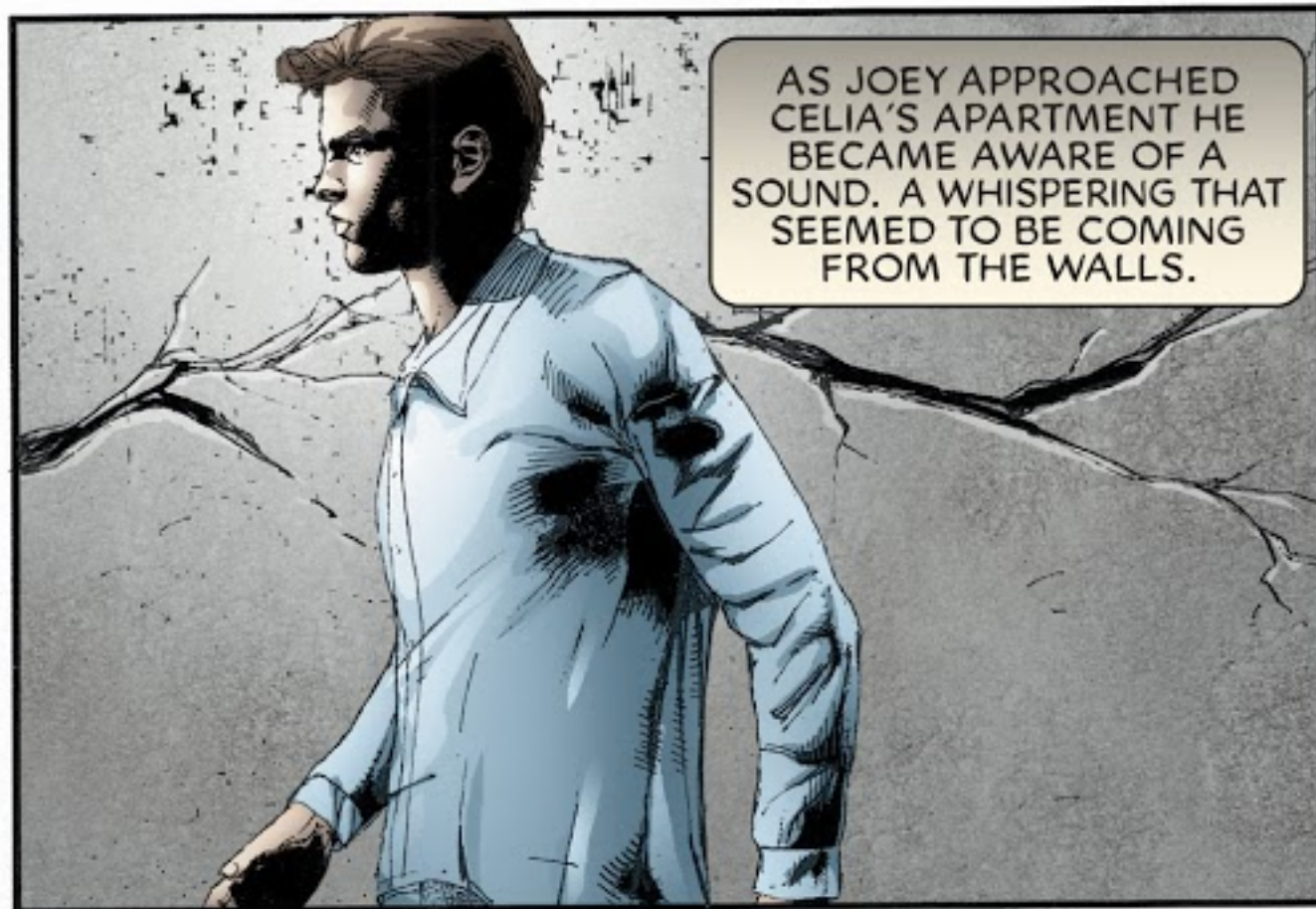
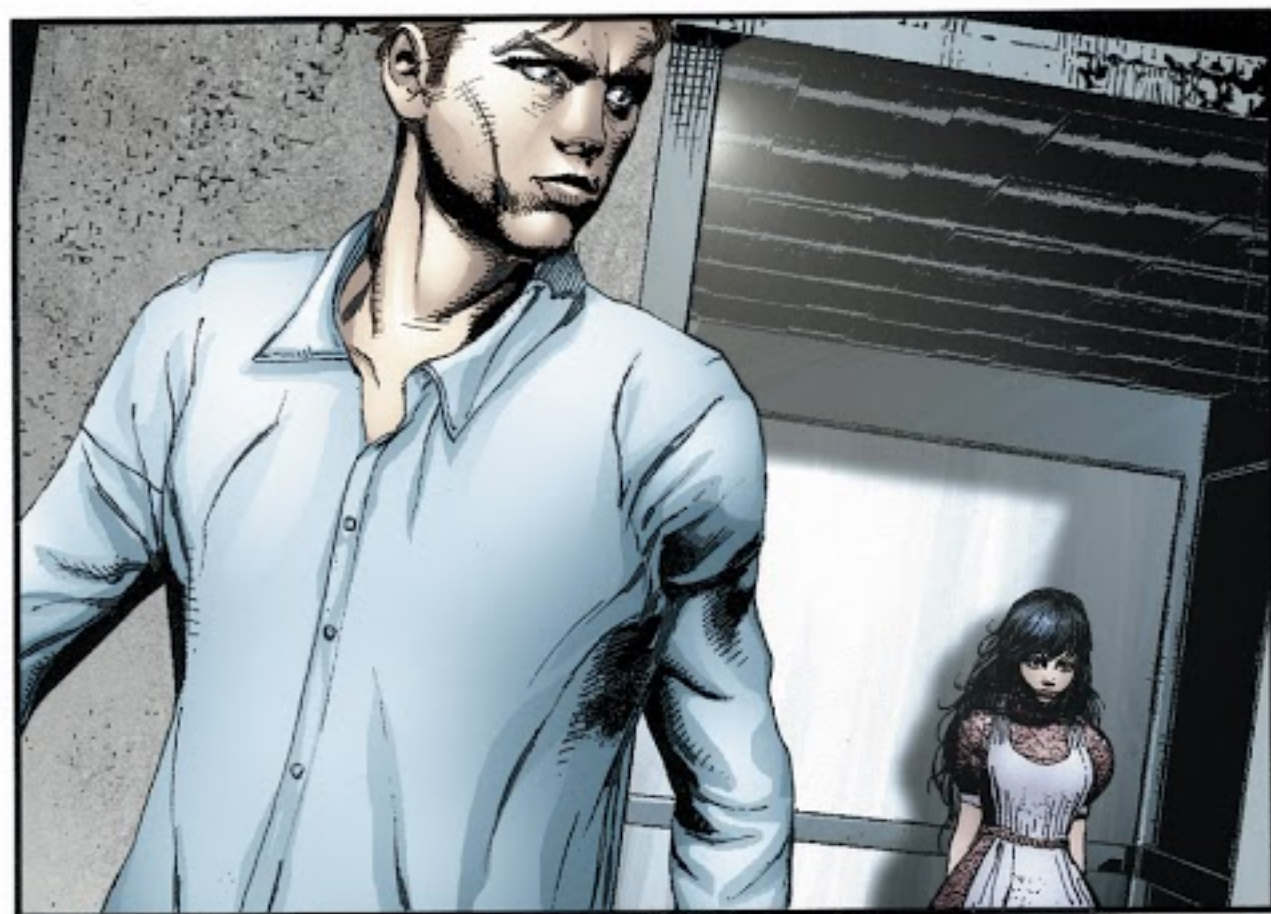
FINALLY HE MAKES THE DECISION. WHATEVER HAPPENS, THIS IS THE DAY HE POPS THE QUESTION.



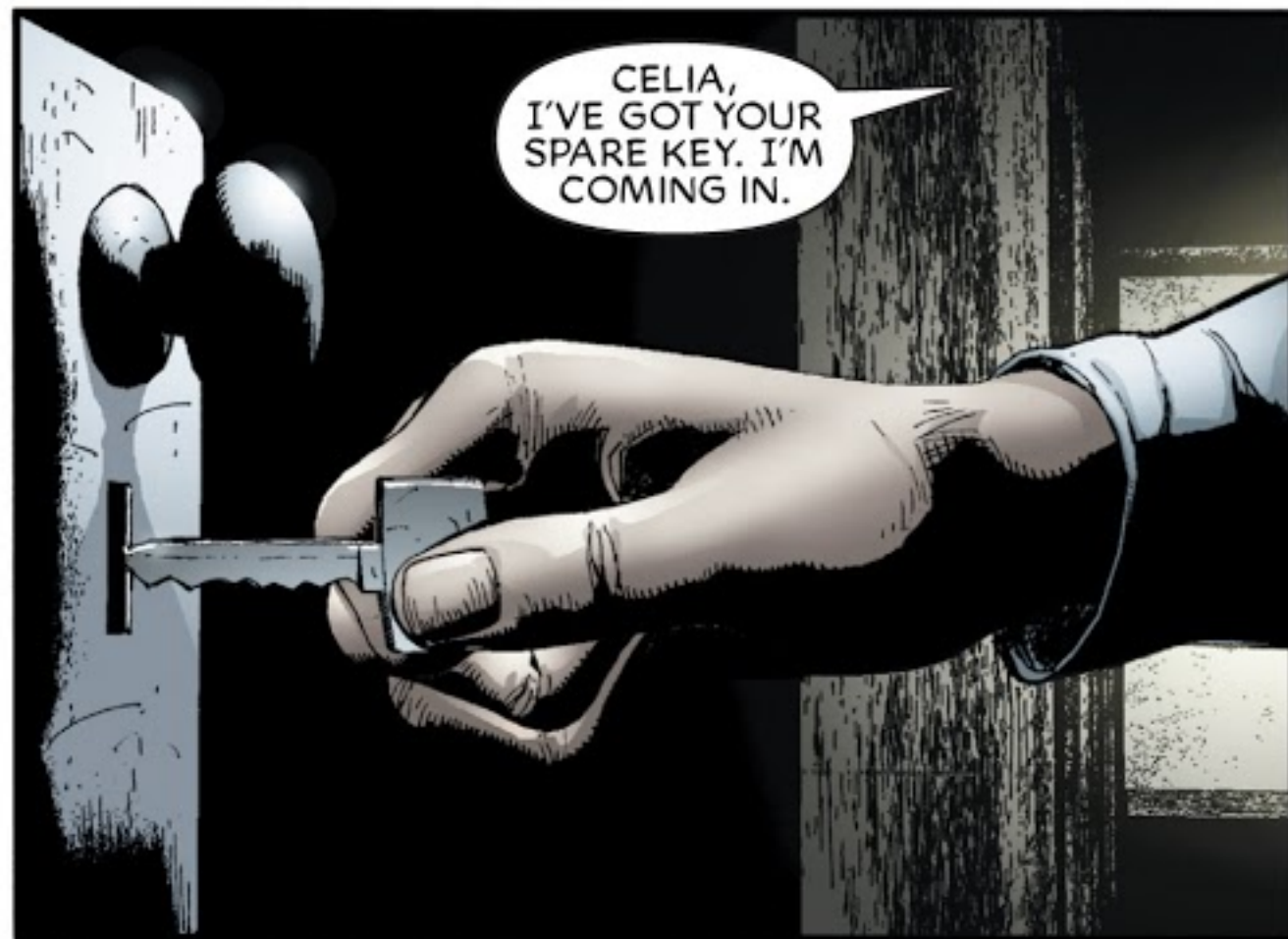








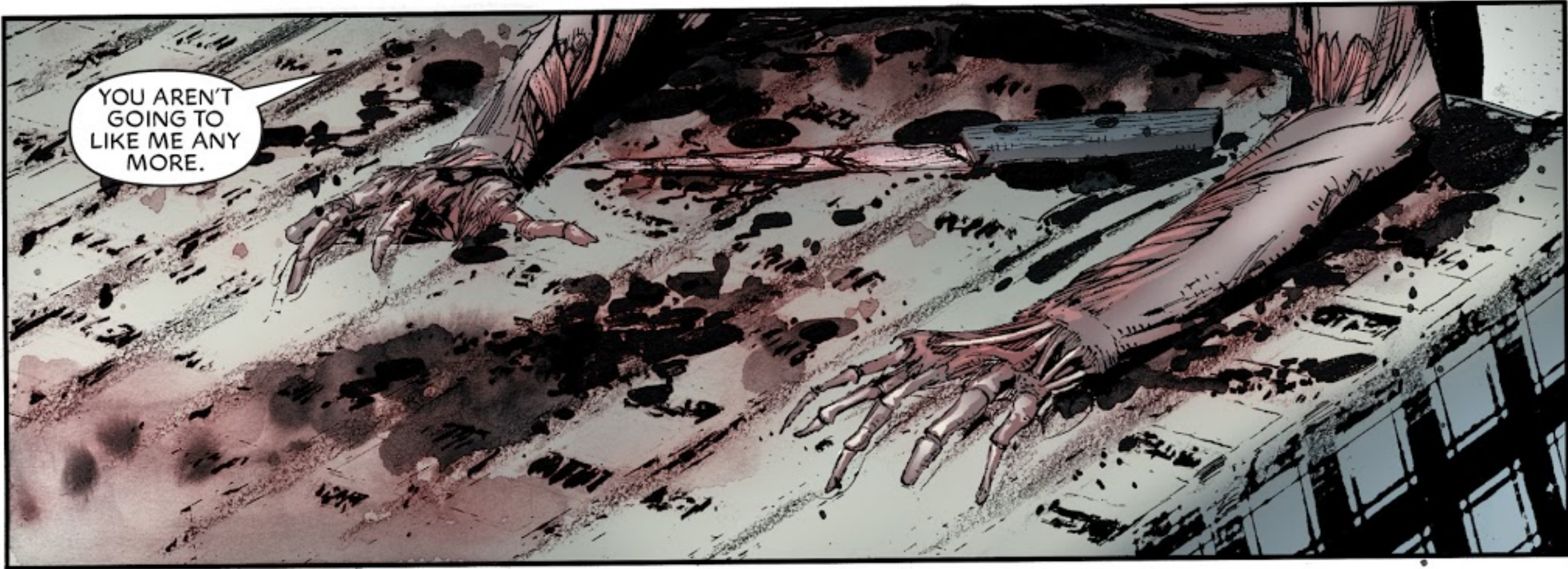
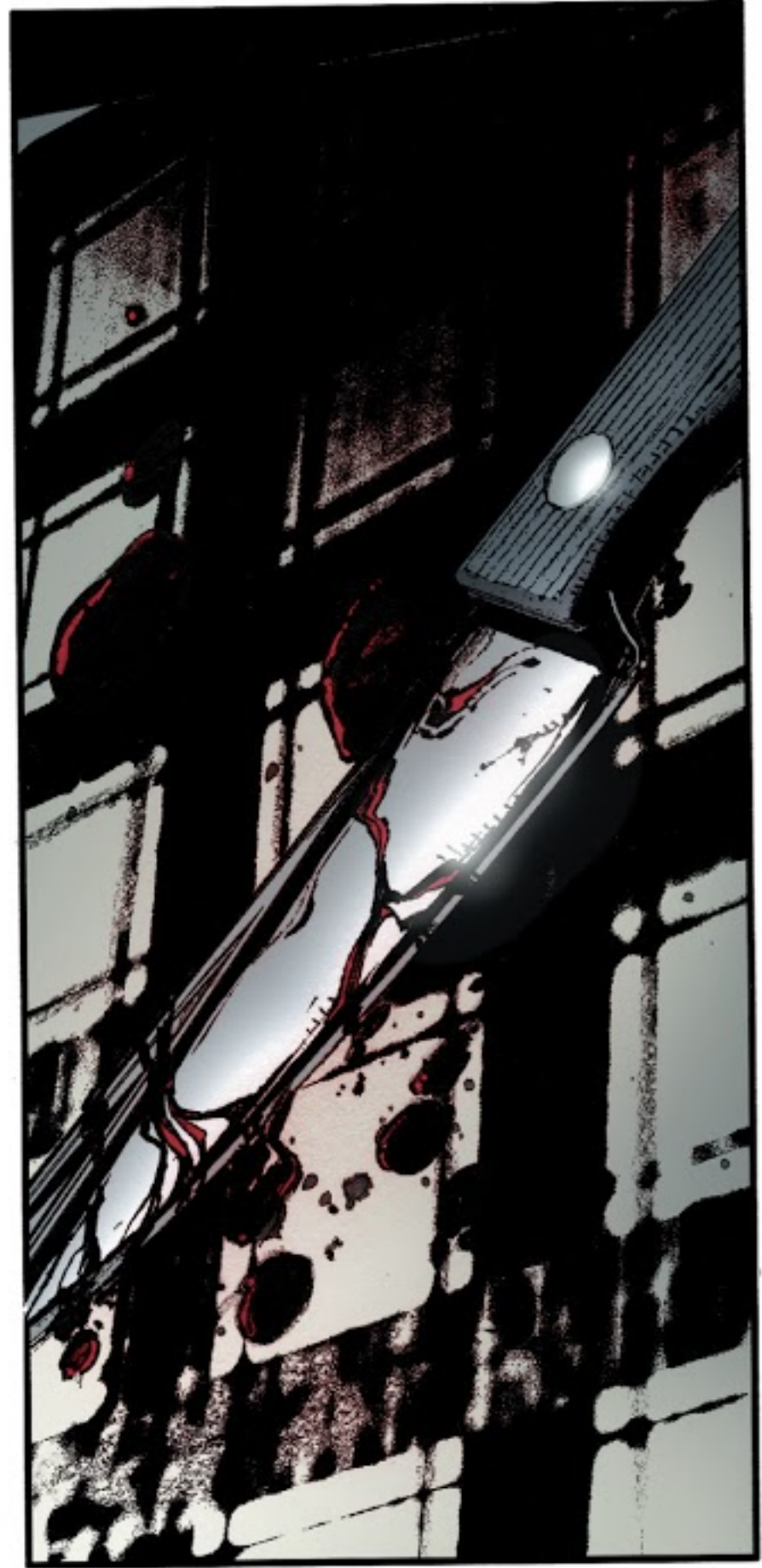














I HAD TO  
SEE WHAT WAS  
UNDERNEATH.

TO BE CONTINUED...







HINE  
HABERLIN

THE VOICE-HEARERS  
PART TWO: THE PEANUT BUTTER LADY

# SPAWN®



ISSUE 167 DIGITAL EDITION

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JOE'S BAR.  
DOWNTOWN  
MANHATTAN.

HAVE YOU  
NOTICED?

HOPE YOU  
DON'T MIND ME  
ASKING THIS, BUT I  
SEE YOU'RE A  
STRAIGHT WHISKY  
DRINKER.

ICE  
KILLS THE  
FLAVOR,  
RIGHT?



SO HAVE  
YOU NOTICED,  
SINCE THE WHITE  
LIGHT, THE  
TASTE IS  
DIFFERENT?

NOTHING  
YOU CAN PUT  
YOUR FINGER ON. A  
DIFFERENT *QUALITY*.  
KNOW WHAT I'M  
SAYING?

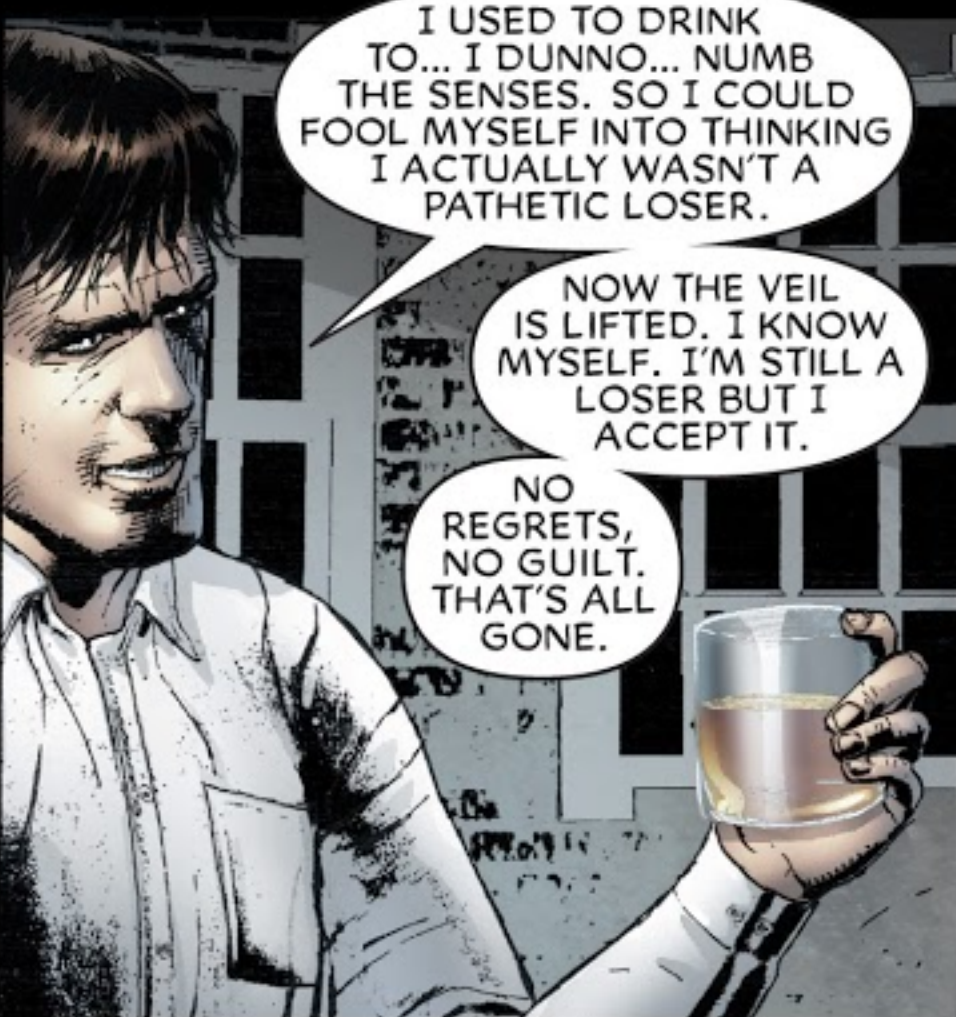
IT'S NOT JUST  
THE WHISKY. THERE'S A  
*SHARPNESS* TO EVERYTHING,  
AS IF THE WHOLE WORLD IS IN  
A HIGHER RESOLUTION, EVEN  
THE ABSTRACTS.



EXAMPLE...

MY  
LIFE. MY  
WONDERFUL  
LIFE.

DEAD-END  
JOB. A WIFE WHO  
BARELY TOLERATES  
ME. KIDS WHO  
DESPISE ME.



I USED TO DRINK  
TO... I DUNNO... NUMB  
THE SENSES. SO I COULD  
FOOL MYSELF INTO THINKING  
I ACTUALLY WASN'T A  
PATHETIC LOSER.

NOW THE VEIL  
IS LIFTED. I KNOW  
MYSELF. I'M STILL A  
LOSER BUT I  
ACCEPT IT.

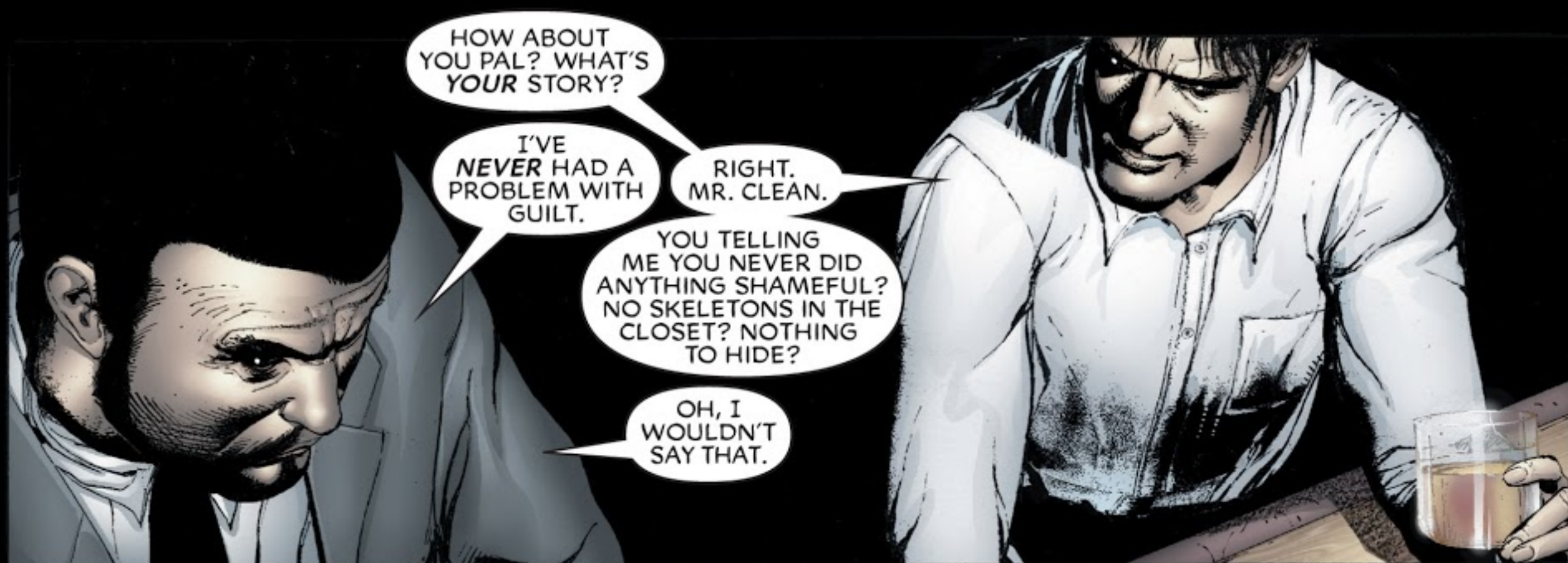
NO  
REGRETS,  
NO GUILT.  
THAT'S ALL  
GONE.



MY  
WIFE  
TOO.

Heh.









AL,  
PLEASE,  
LISTEN  
TO ME.

THE NAME  
IS SPAWN AND  
I AM NOT YOUR  
NURSE-  
MAID!!



WHY HAVE  
YOU COME  
TO ME WITH  
**THIS?!**

ONE MURDER  
AND ONE SELF-  
MUTILATION DO  
NOT ADD UP TO  
**DEMONIC  
POSSESSION!**

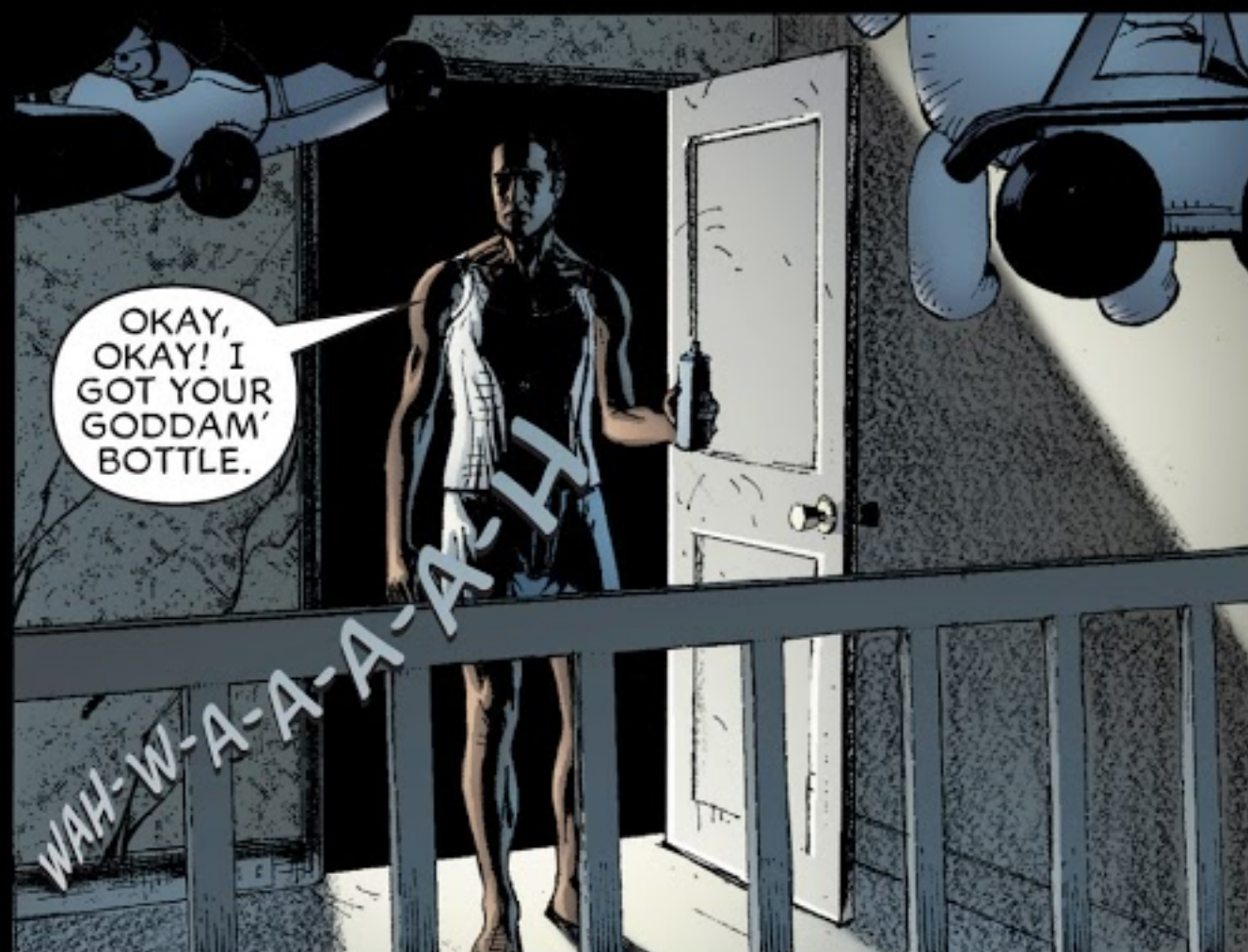
RIGHT.  
AGREED. BUT  
THAT WAS JUST  
DAY ONE...



IT GETS  
WORSE.



"SOMETIME AROUND ONE AM OF THE SECOND DAY, THE BABY IN APARTMENT 28 STARTED CRYING."







OH HELL. MIGHT AS WELL GET YOUR WEARY BONES OUT OF BED GIRL. HE CAN NEVER QUIET HER.



WELL. HOW ABOUT THAT?



CONGRATULATIONS HONEY, YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY A GOOD FATHER.



"AT SEVEN AM ISABELLA SAMPEDRO WOKE FROM HER FIRST DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP FOR OVER NINE MONTHS.

"AT SEVEN FIFTEEN SHE LEAPT TO HER DEATH FROM THE WINDOW OF HER CHILD'S NURSERY."





"TWELVE HOURS LATER, THE REILLY FAMILY GATHERED IN APARTMENT 17 FOR A DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE TENTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MICHAEL AND PENELOPE."



"APPARENTLY MICHAEL REILLY'S EXPERIENCE OF THE WHITE LIGHT EVENT LED HIM TO A RADICAL RE-ASSESSMENT OF HIS SEXUALITY. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE HAD GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS FEMALE SIDE."



"SHALL I CARVE?"



"REILLY BLEED TO DEATH BEFORE THE AMBULANCE ARRIVED."









I'M A POLICEMAN MA'AM. I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE LAND-

-THE WHITE LIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO CLEAN EVERYTHING UP. GET RID'A THE SCUM.



THERE'S BEEN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS-

-DIDN'T EVEN GET RID'A THE ROACHES.

MURDERS MA'AM.

PEOPLE ARE DYING HERE. THIS BUILDING ISN'T SAFE.



I'M A RENT STABILIZED TENANT. I'M STAYING.

I DON'T CARE WHAT KIND'A VERMIN YOU SEND IN HERE. ROACHES, WEEVILS, BED BUGS, RATS...

...I'M READY!



OKAY. ENOUGH.

STAY. DIE. WHATEVER.

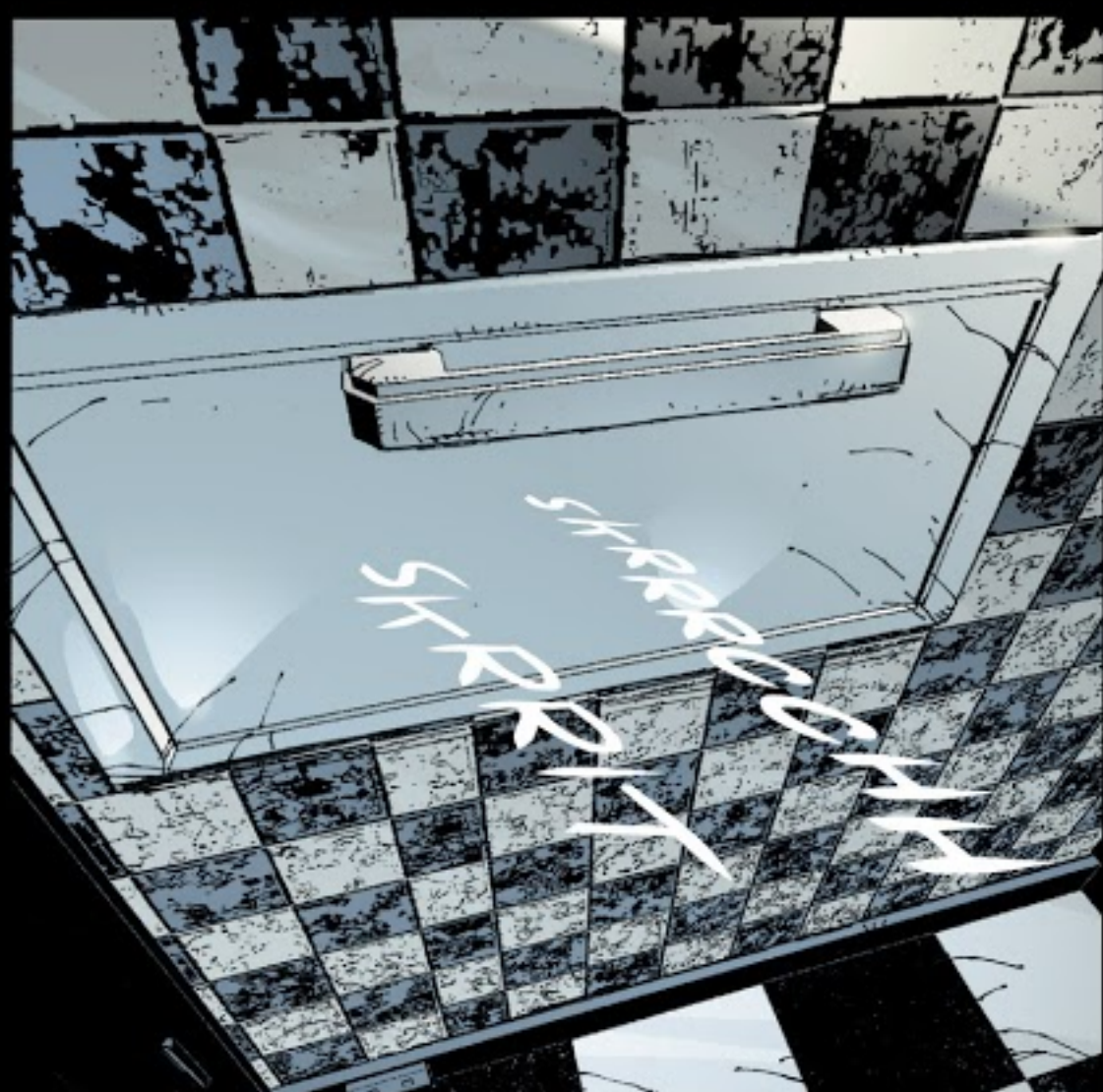


HAPPINESS IS A CLEAN MIND IN A CLEAN BODY IN A CLEAN HOME, RIGHT IMELDA?

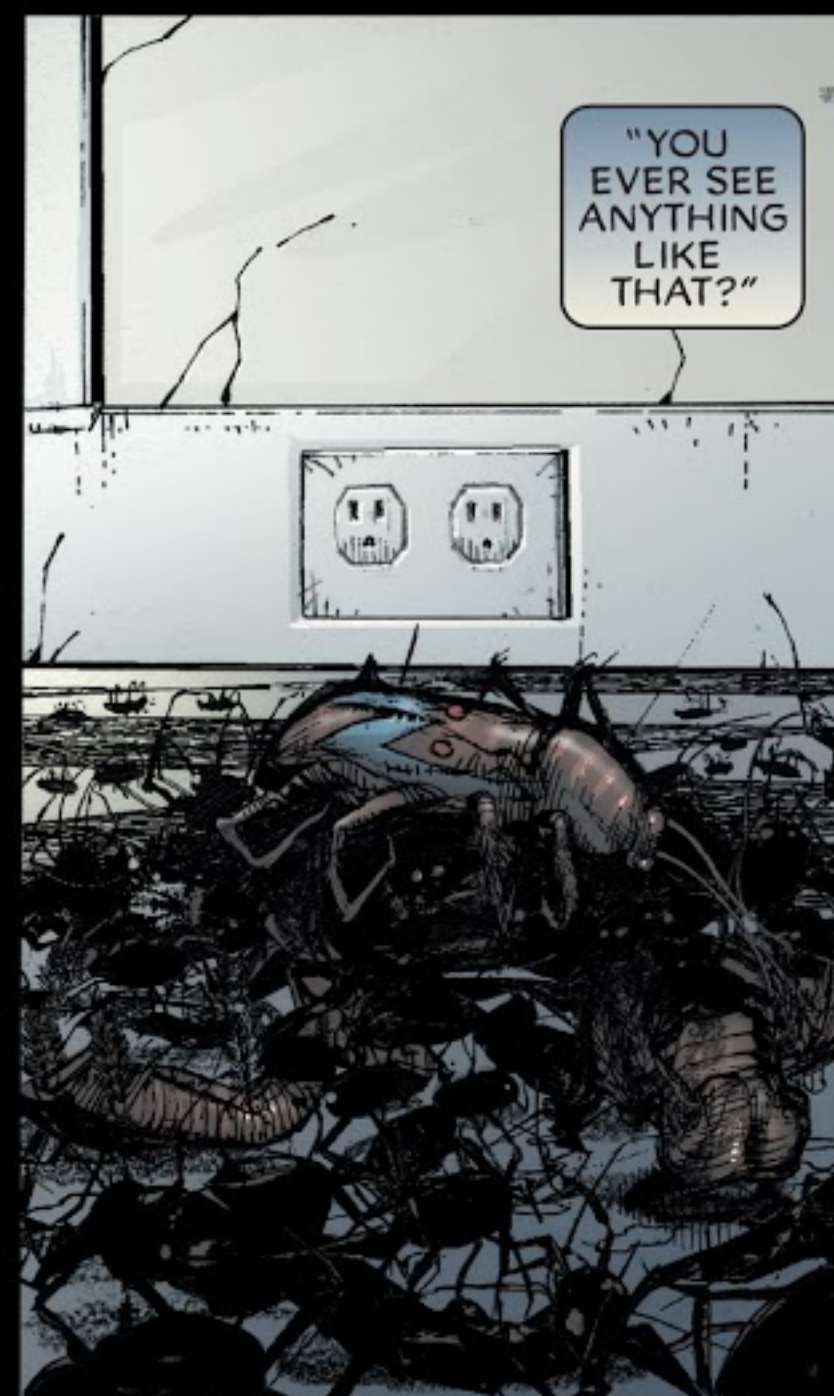


SO LET'S GET THIS APARTMENT HAPPY.













YOU REMEMBER THE  
BLACKOUT? WHEN HALF OF  
NEW YORK WENT CRAZY. HUNDREDS  
OF CITIZENS PAINTED THEIR FACES  
WITH CLOWN MAKE-UP AND  
RAN RIOT.

SAME  
MARKINGS.



IT  
WASN'T  
PAINT.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT'S  
CAUSING THIS,  
RIGHT?

YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO HELP  
US?



LOOK  
AT ME.

TAKE  
A GOOD  
LOOK.



I'M  
TIRED  
MAX.

I SAVED THIS  
WORLD BUT I DIDN'T  
TURN IT INTO A PARADISE.  
I BROUGHT YOU ALL BACK.  
EVERY MAN WOMAN AND  
CHILD ON THE PLANET. AND  
THAT INCLUDES THE BAD  
AND THE UGLY.

I CAN'T WAVE  
A MAGIC WAND  
AND MAKE ALL  
YOUR TROUBLES  
GO AWAY. YOU'RE  
THE COP. DO  
YOUR JOB.



I DON'T  
CARE ANY  
MORE.

I JUST  
WANT TO  
BE LEFT  
ALONE.

OKAY. FAIR  
ENOUGH. YOU  
WANT TO WALLOW  
IN SELF PITY, THAT'S  
YOUR CHOICE.



THANKS  
FOR SAVING  
THE WORLD BY  
THE WAY.

APPRECIATE  
IT.

















WHERE'S  
CLOWN?





HEY TWITCH, GOOD OF YOU TO STOP BY.

I THOUGHT I HAD A LEAD.

YEAH?

IT WAS A DEAD END.



I'VE BEEN THINKING. WITH SERIAL KILLERS IT'S ALWAYS THE FIRST VICTIM YOU GOTTA GO TO FOR THE CLUES.

WILMA BARBERA. THE PEANUT BUTTER LADY.

THIS ISN'T A SERIAL KILLER.

AND BARBERA WASN'T THE FIRST.



NOT HER HUSBAND. SOMETHING HAPPENED BEFORE.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

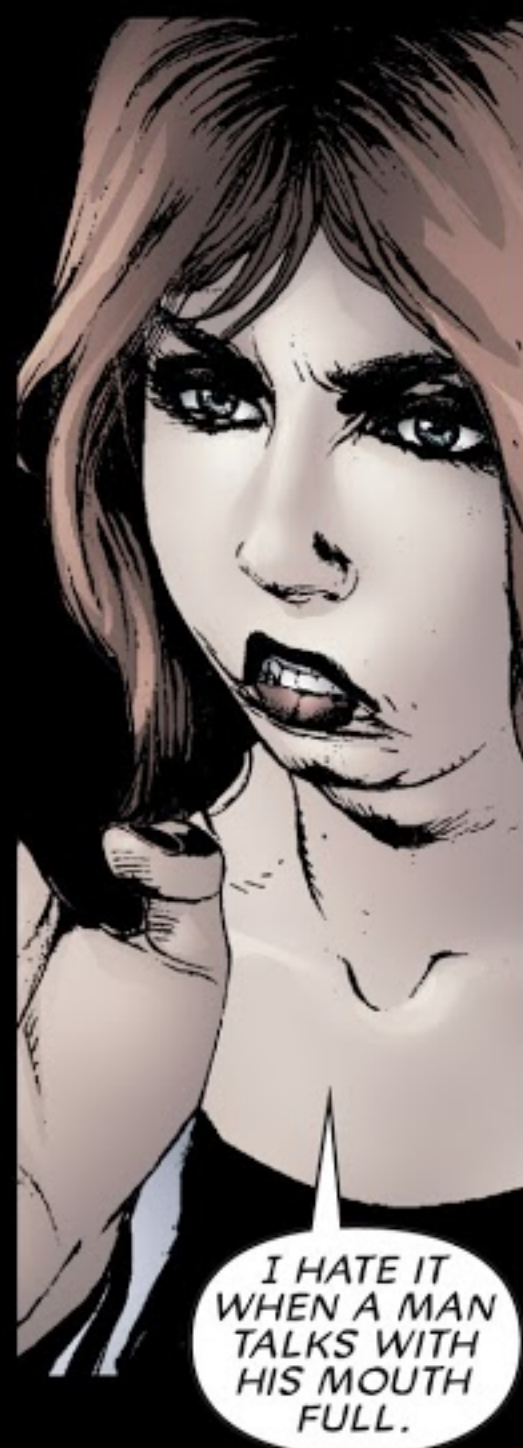
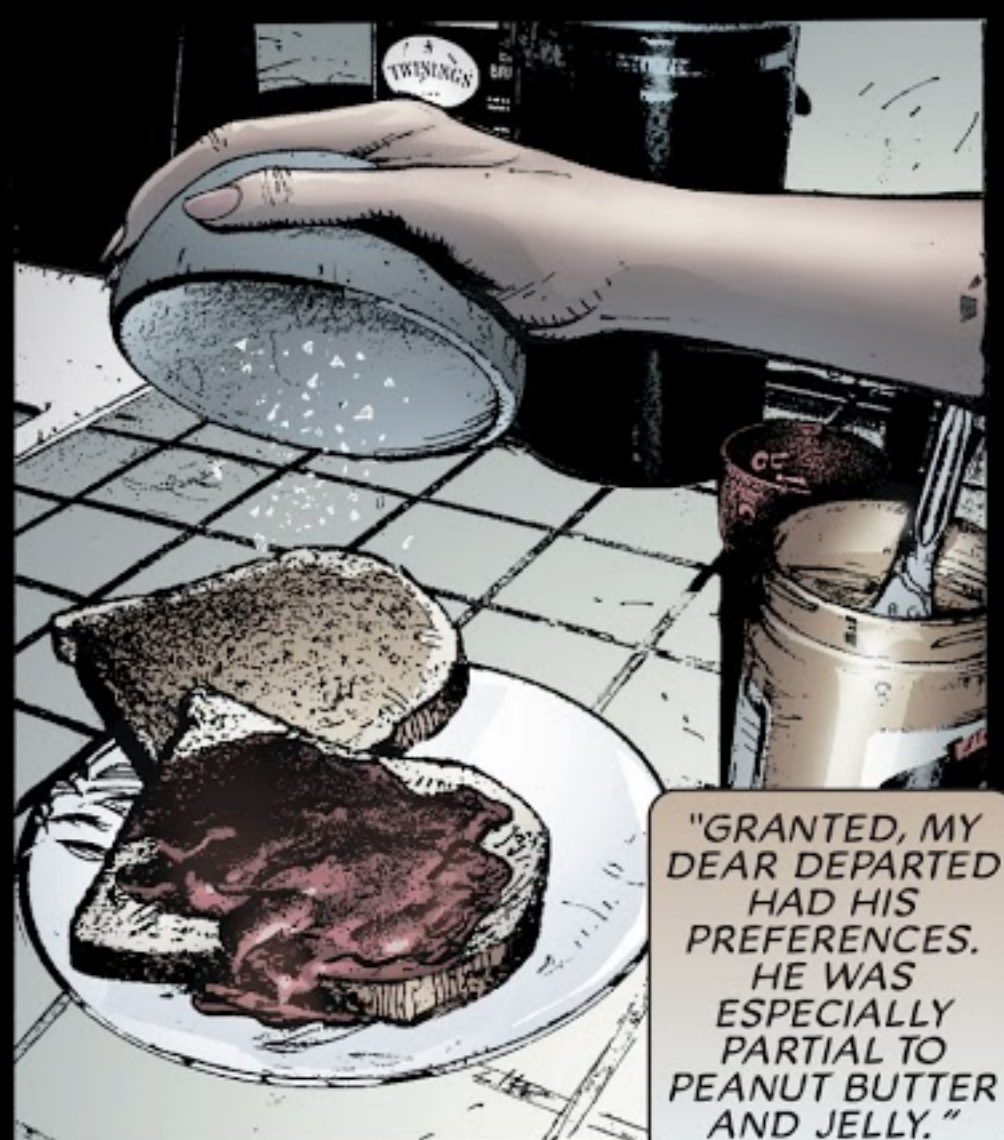


OKAY NOW. I WANT YOU TO TELL US ONE MORE TIME FOR THE RECORD.

YOUR HUSBAND-

MY HUSBAND WAS A PIG!









YOU DIDN'T  
FEED HIM GROUND  
GLASS BECAUSE OF HIS  
TABLE MANNERS.

I HATE  
HIM. I'VE  
HATED HIM FOR  
YEARS.

SO WHY  
NOW? IF YOU  
HATED HIM FOR  
YEARS. WHY WAIT  
UNTIL NOW TO DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT?



BARNEY  
TOLD ME  
TO.



BARNEY?  
WHO'S  
BARNEY?

MY BOY-  
FRIEND.

HE TOLD  
YOU TO KILL  
YOUR  
HUSBAND?

WHERE CAN  
WE FIND THIS  
BARNEY?

HE'S IN  
THE GARBAGE  
CHUTE.



THE  
GARBAGE  
CHUTE.

RIGHT.



"MY HUSBAND CAME  
HOME EARLY. IT WAS  
THE ONLY WAY OUT OF  
THE APARTMENT.

"BARNEY'S A  
SPELEOLOGIST,  
IT'S HIS HOBBY,  
EXPLORING  
CAVES, POT  
HOLES. HE SAID  
IT WOULD BE  
EASY FOR HIM  
TO WORK HIS  
WAY DOWN AND  
GET OUT AT THE  
BOTTOM.



"HE  
SAID  
HE'D  
CALL  
ME."





"HE NEVER CALLED. A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING IN THE CHUTE."



BARNEY?  
ARE YOU  
THERE?

"THERE WAS  
NO ANSWER.  
JUST A  
SCUTTLING  
SOUND."



"THEN ALL  
THE BAD  
STUFF  
HAPPENED.  
I GOT REAL  
SICK AND  
I DIDN'T  
THINK  
ABOUT  
BARNEY  
ANY MORE."



"THEN  
THERE  
WAS THE  
WHITE  
LIGHT."



"AFTER THAT I STARTED  
HEARING THE VOICE  
COMING FROM THE CHUTE."

show him  
Wilma... make  
him suffer...  
make him spit  
blood... make  
the piggy  
squeeeal



IT WENT  
ON AND ON,  
DAY AND NIGHT.  
WHISPER, WHISPER,  
DRIVING ME CRAZY,  
UNTIL I STARTED  
MAKING THAT  
PEANUT BUTTER  
SANDWICH.



SO  
WHADDAYA  
THINK?

I THINK  
ROOTING  
THROUGH  
GARBAGE IS MY  
SECOND LEAST  
FAVORITE  
PASTIME.











HELL

SHOWTIME!

ROACH  
KILL



CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...





HINE  
HABERLIN

THE VOICE-HEARERS

PART THREE: LAUGHTER IN THE DARK

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

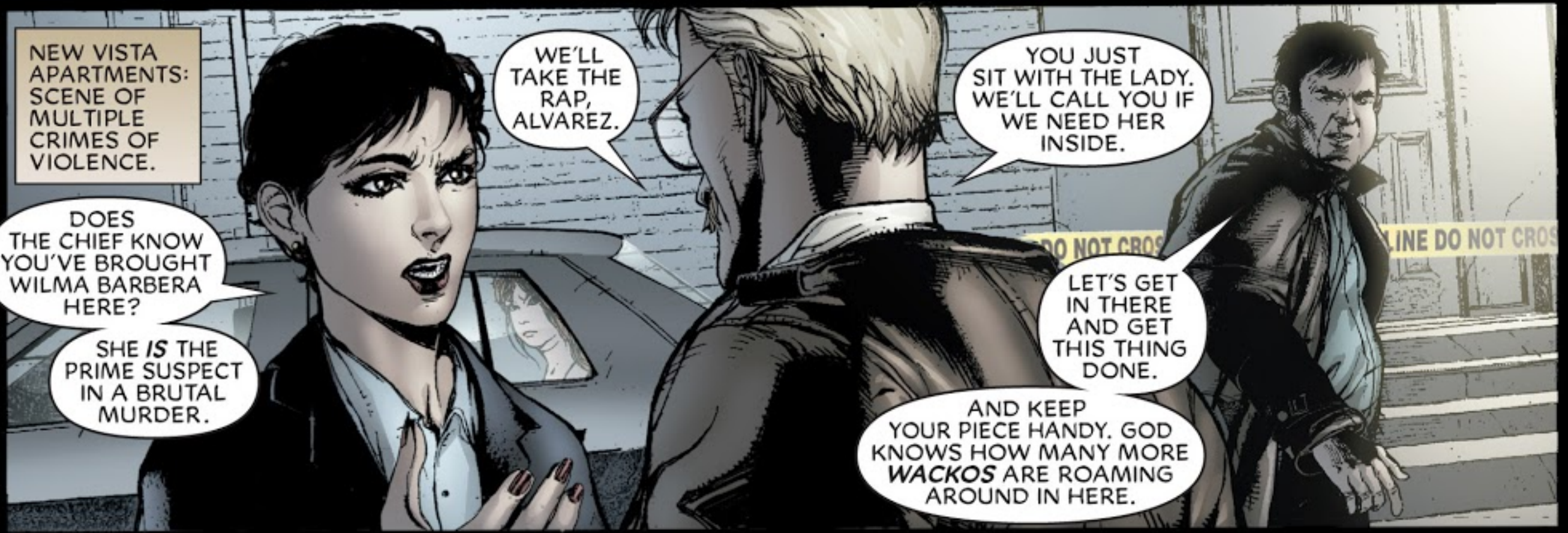


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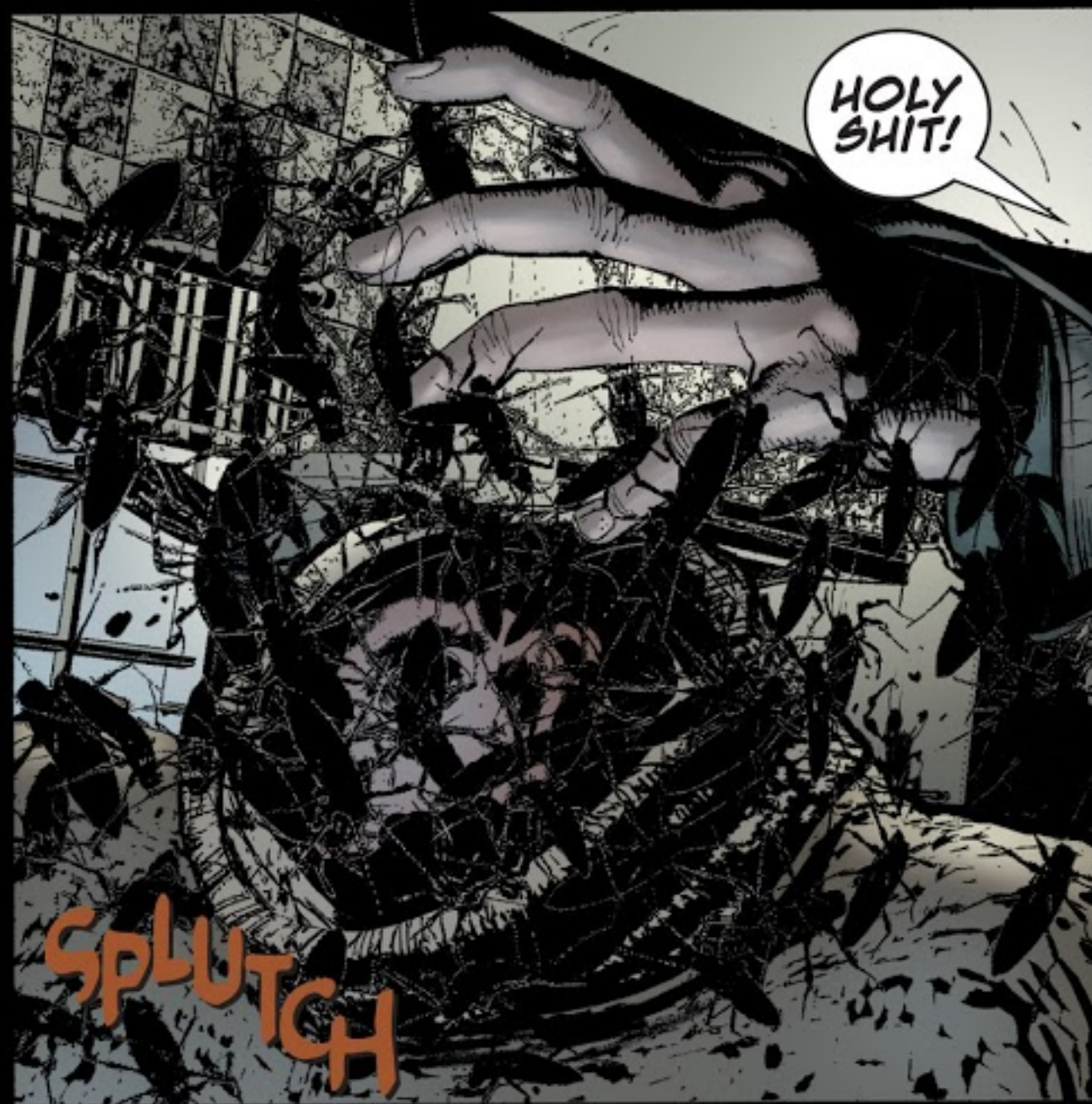


CHRIST  
ON A  
CRUTCH!

I GUESS  
SHE *DOES*  
HAVE A ROACH  
PROBLEM.



MA'AM?



HOLY  
SHIT!

SPLUTCH



I-I THINK  
THE ROACHES ATE  
HER HEAD!

SAM!  
OVER  
HERE.

IT SOUNDS  
LIKE THE  
LADY HAS  
COMPANY.

ROLL OUT  
THE BARREL,  
WE'LL HAVE A  
BARREL OF  
FUN...





ROLL OUT THE BARREL, WE'VE GOT THE BLUES ON THE RUN-

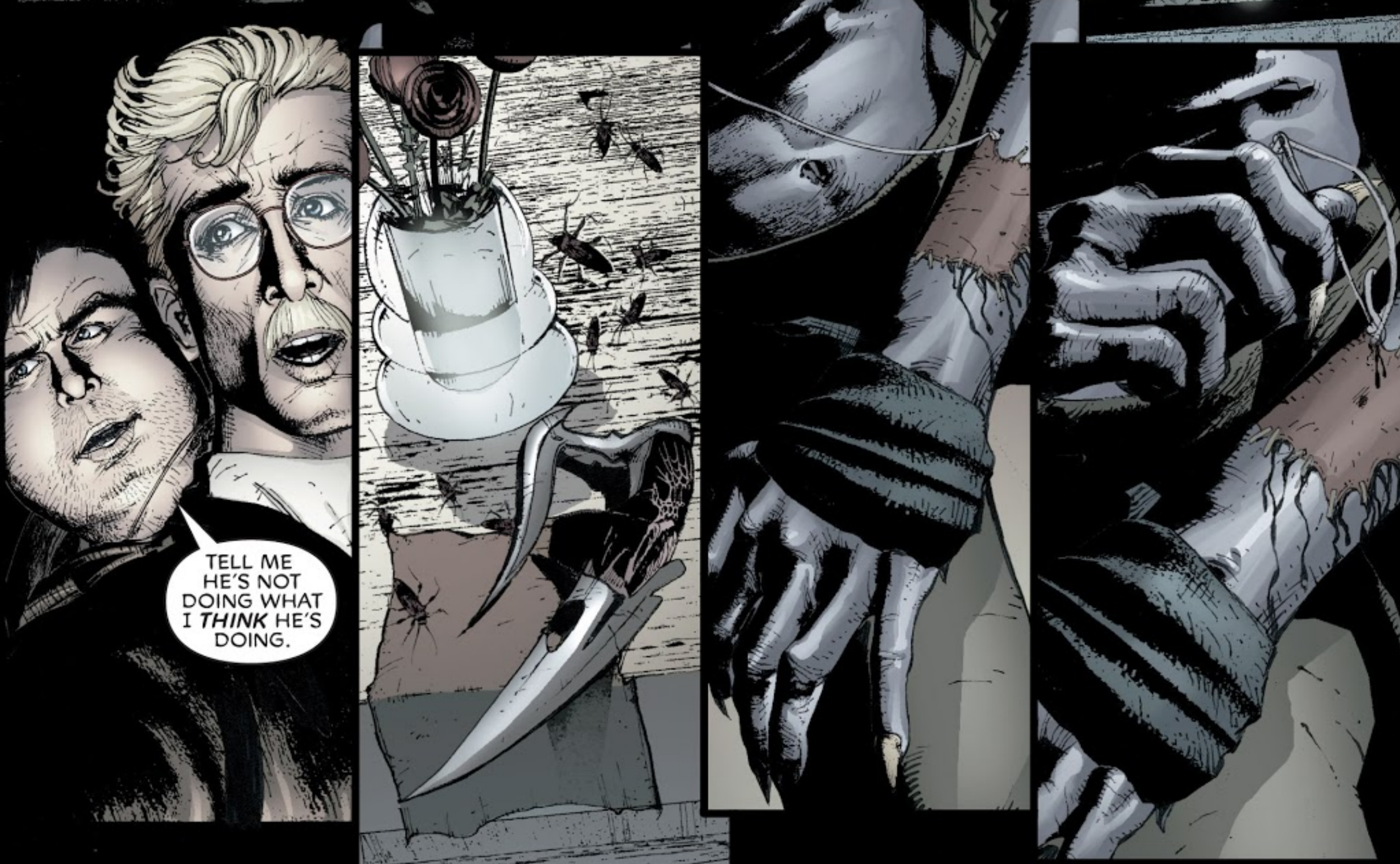
OKAY, BUDDY, DON'T MOVE.

LET'S KEEP THOSE HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM.



BE RIGHT WITH YOU DETECTIVES. JUST GOTTA FINISH THIS LITTLE *REPAIR* JOB.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY- A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE.



TELL ME HE'S NOT DOING WHAT I *THINK* HE'S DOING.





OKAY  
SMARTASS, YOU  
WANNA COP AN  
INSANITY PLEA, YOU  
GOT *ME* CONVINCED.  
NOW PUT DOWN THE  
NEEDLE AND PLACE  
YOUR HANDS ON  
YOUR HEAD.

IS THAT  
BARBERA'S  
BOY-  
FRIEND?

HOW ABOUT  
IT? ARE YOU  
BARNEY  
SAUNDERS?



WELL  
NOW, I  
HATE TO GET ALL  
**EXISTENTIAL** ON  
YOU, BUT THE  
ANSWER TO  
THAT HAS TO  
BE YES...

...AND  
NO.

IT'S KIND'A  
COMPLICATED.



UH, LISTEN  
BEFORE YOU  
HEROES START  
READING ME MY  
RIGHTS, WHAT  
EXACTLY ARE YOU  
PLANNING TO  
CHARGE ME  
WITH?

DAMAGE TO  
PROPERTY?



WHAT?!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
STARING  
AT?



OH YEAH.  
THERE'S *THAT*  
TOO.



BUT HEY...  
THE SCAGGY OLD  
BITCH WAS ASKING  
FOR IT. SPRAYING THE  
GODDAM ROACH KILL  
DOWN ON ME EVERY  
FIVE MINUTES.

WHAT  
CAN YOU  
DO?









THAT DOES  
IT! I'M MAKING  
A FORMAL  
COMPLAINT.

THAT WAS  
POLICE  
BRUTALITY!



AH!



YEE-  
HAH!



CALL IN A  
TEN-  
THIRTEEN!

OFFICER  
DOWN!  
OFFICER  
DOWN!



AWK!





HEAR  
THIS  
CLOWN.

THERE IS  
A NEW WORLD  
ORDER.



YOU  
DON'T  
BELONG  
HERE!



DEMONS  
ARE NOT  
WELCOME  
IN MY  
WORLD!



WELL...  
UNNGG...  
EX-CUSE  
ME!

I GUESS I  
DIDN'T GET THE  
MEMO...



...BECAUSE  
I WAS STUCK  
IN A FRIKKING  
GARBAGE CHUTE  
BEING EATEN  
ALIVE BY  
**RATS!**





IS THIS WHAT YOU WEREN'T TELLING ME, TWITCH? DID YOU GO FIND SPAWN?

AH, YES. I GUESS I DID.



GOOD CALL.

YOU MIND FILLING US IN? DO YOU KNOW THIS CRAZY PERSON?

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN HOW COME THE SONOFABITCH IS STILL BREATHING WITH THOSE CHAINS PUNCHED THROUGH HIS HEART.



THIS GARBAGE-EATING PIECE OF CRAP IS THE DEMON FORMERLY KNOWN AS VIOLATOR.

HE WORKED FOR ONE OF THE LORDS OF HELL UNTIL HE **SCREWED UP** AND WAS BANISHED TO EARTH IN THE FORM OF THE UNIQUELY REPULSIVE CLOWN.

I TOOK GREAT PLEASURE IN OBLITERATING HIS FAT UGLY ASS BUT IT TURNED OUT HE WAS TOUGHER TO KILL THAN I THOUGHT.

HE ENDED UP COHABITING THE BODY OF A HIGHLY-PLACED CIA OFFICER NAMED JASON WYNN.

NOW THERE WAS A MARRIAGE MADE IN HELL.







I FOUND WYNN. SEEMS WHEN THE APOCALYPSE CAME ALONG, HE DIED ALONG WITH EVERYONE ELSE. AND THE CLOWN WAS EXPELLED FROM HIS BODY.

SO HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, CREEP?

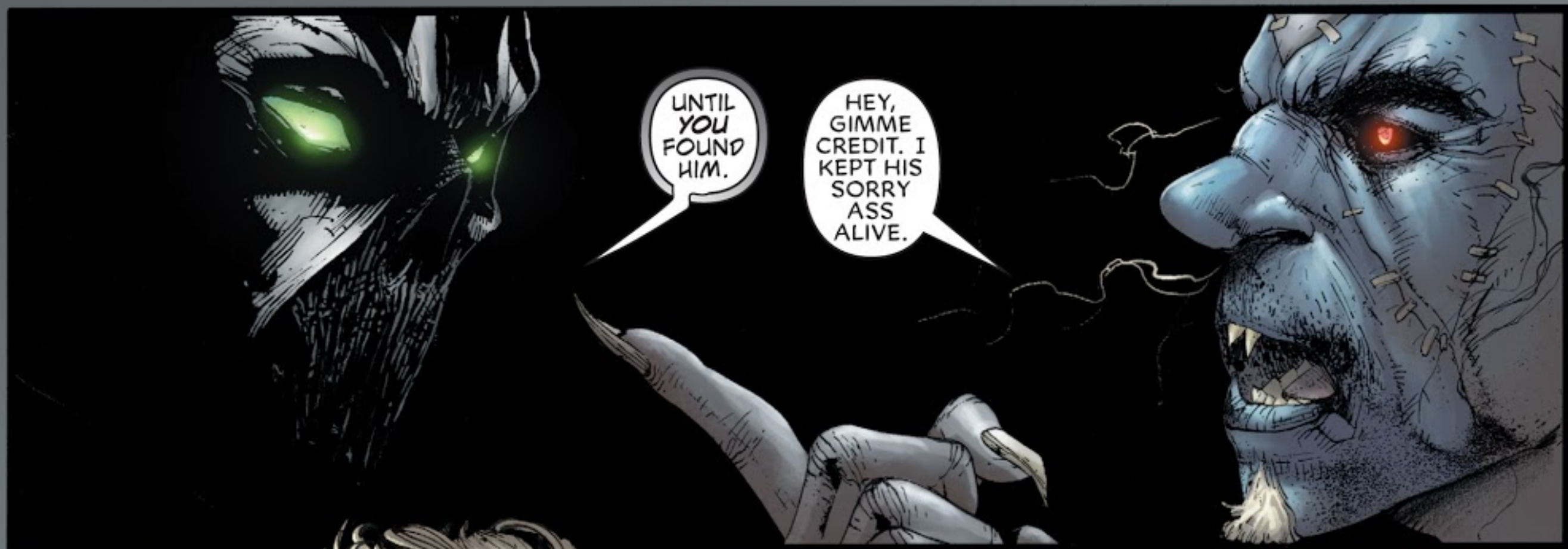
nnnggg... IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A WHOLE LOT OF CHOICE. NOBODY PLANNED FOR US DISCORPORATE HOMELESS DEMONS.

IF I DIDN'T FIND A LIVE BODY I'D HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN A LIMBO BETWEEN HELL AND EARTH. AND YOU KNOW HOW I LOVE COMPANY. LIMBO WAS NOT AN OPTION.



ENTER THE UNFORTUNATE BARNEY, TRAPPED IN A GARBAGE CHUTE, WITH THE RATS AND ROACHES FEEDING ON HIM. HE WAS THE ONE IN A BILLION WHO DIDN'T DIE. THE APOCALYPSE PASSED HIM BY.

HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT HE WAS BETTER OFF THAN THE REST OF THE HUMAN RACE...



UNTIL YOU FOUND HIM.

HEY, GIMME CREDIT. I KEPT HIS SORRY ASS ALIVE.



THIS CIA GUY, JASON WYNN. HE'S THE **ONE** ISN'T HE?

HE'S THE MAN IN THE SHADOWS WHO'S BEEN SCREWING WITH ME AND SAM ALL THESE YEARS.

YEAH? WELL, I HOPE YOU TORE HIM A NEW ASSHOLE TO CRAP ON US WITH.





WYNN WON'T  
BE CRAPPING ON  
ANYONE...

HE WAS ALL SET TO  
CARRY ON WHERE HE LEFT  
OFF. HE THOUGHT HE WAS  
UNTOUCHABLE. FOR YEARS HE  
STASHED AWAY RECORDS OF  
ALL HIS DIRTY OPERATIONS,  
THE ASSASSINATIONS AND  
COUPS, THE TERRORIST  
ATTACKS. PROOF THAT EVERY  
WESTERN GOVERNMENT HAD  
THEIR HANDS IN THE SHIT.

THAT WAS HIS  
INSURANCE.



BUT I'M MAKING  
THE RULES NOW. I  
TOLD WYNN WHAT  
I'VE DONE TO HIS  
EVIDENCE.



EVERY HARD  
DRIVE, EVERY DISK,  
EVERY DOCUMENT  
IN EVERY SAFE  
DEPOSIT BOX AND  
POSTAL DROP.

THEY'RE  
ALL  
GONE.



THERE'S  
NOTHING  
LEFT BUT  
ASHES AND  
MELTED  
PLASTIC.

HE HAS NO  
PROTECTION NOW.  
HE'S A MAN WITH  
TEN THOUSAND  
ENEMIES AND EVERY  
ONE OF THEM WANTS  
A PIECE OF HIM.



HE KNOWS  
HE'S A DEAD  
MAN  
WALKING.





WHAT ABOUT THIS SCUMBAG? WHAT'S HIS AGENDA?

THIS IS ALL YOU ISN'T IT? EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS BUILDING. *YOU'RE* MAKING THEM DO IT.

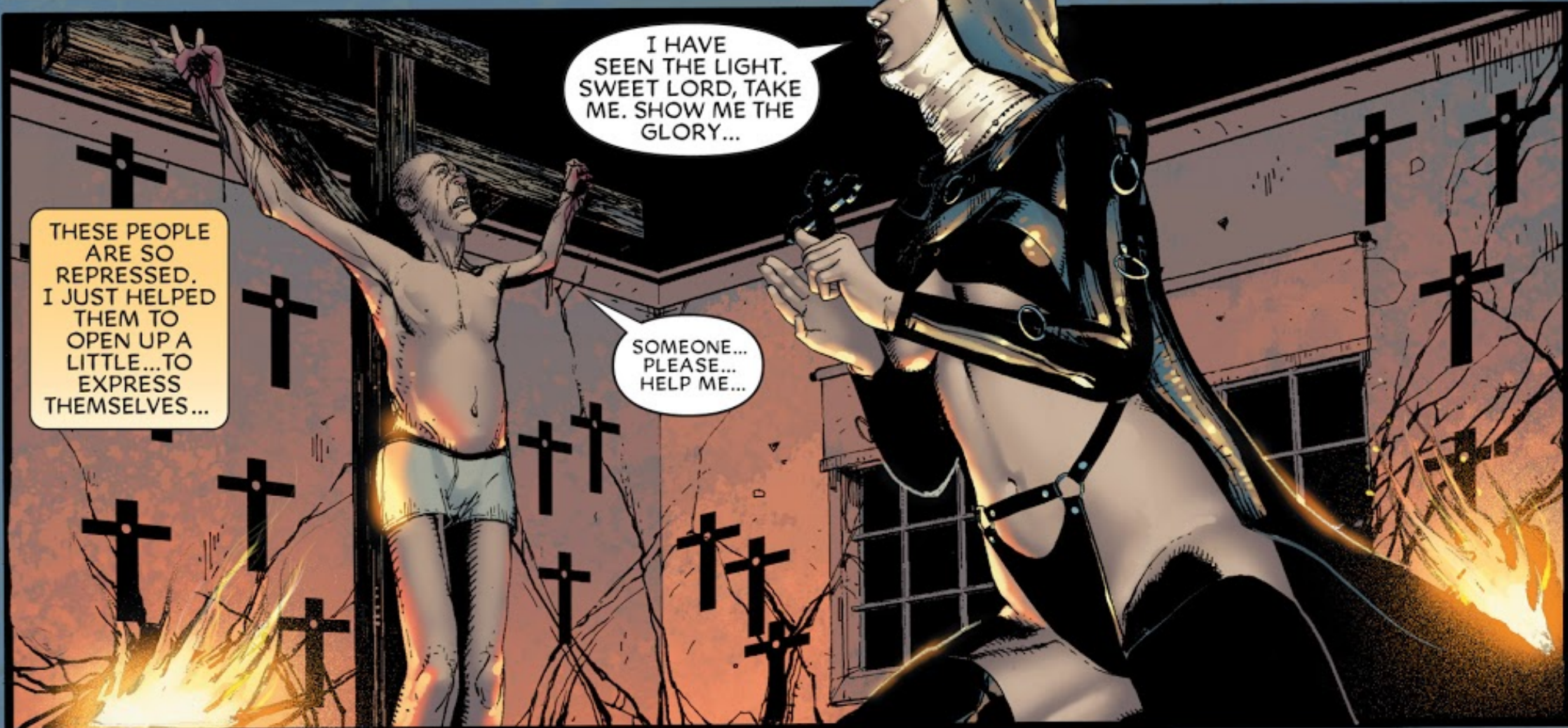
OH YEAH, RIGHT. THAT IS JUST SO TYPICAL OF THE BLAME CULTURE THAT'S *POISONING* THIS COUNTRY. NO ONE TAKES RESPONSIBILITY ANY MORE.

"I'M A FAT BASTARD BECAUSE *THEY* MAKE FOOD TASTE TOO GOOD."

"I CHOPPED UP MY ENTIRE FAMILY BECAUSE THE *DEMON* TOLD ME TO."

*PATHETIC!*

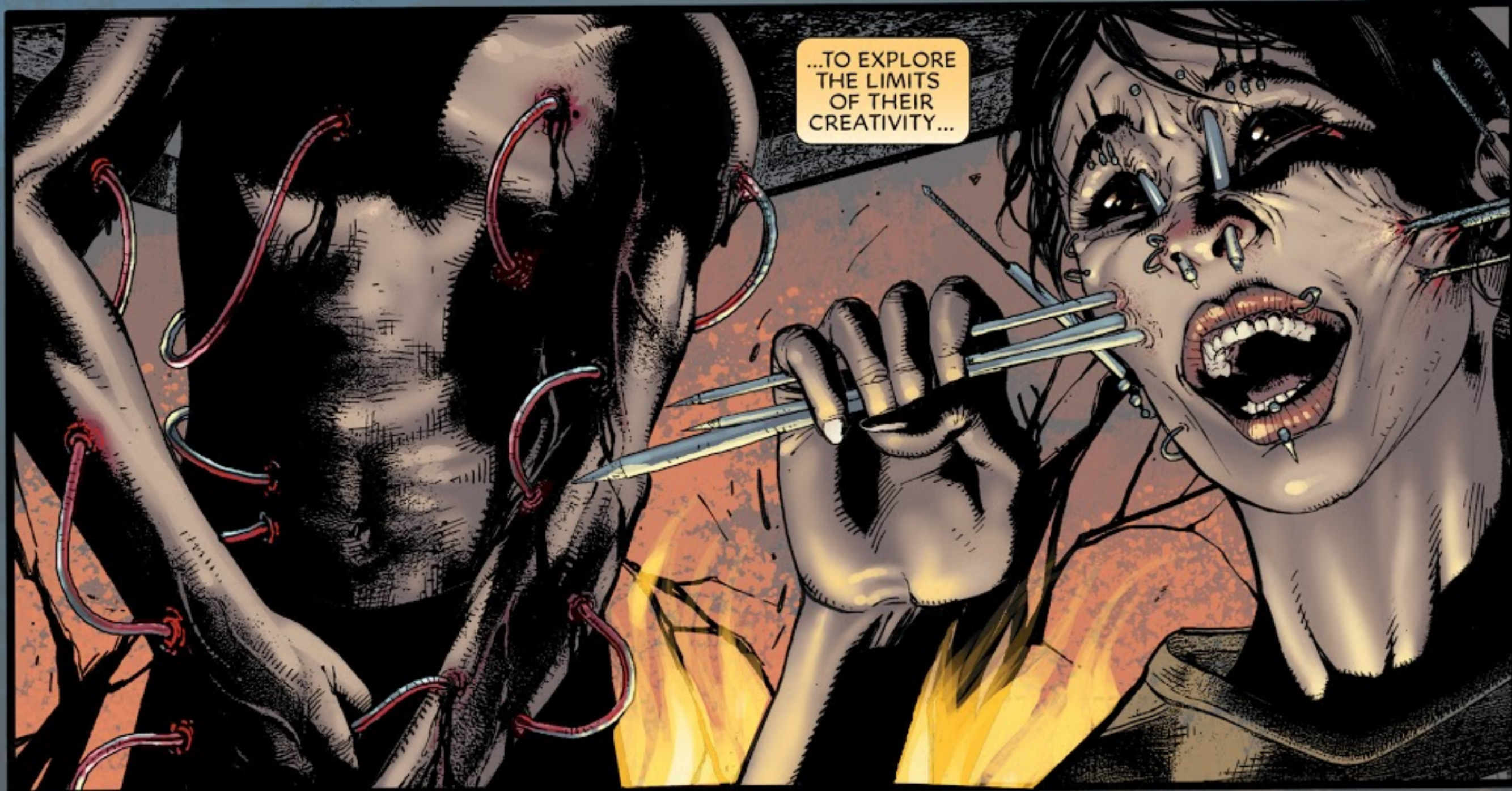
"DO WHAT THOU WILT." THAT'S ALL I SAID.



THESE PEOPLE ARE SO REPRESSED. I JUST HELPED THEM TO OPEN UP A LITTLE...TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES...

I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT. SWEET LORD, TAKE ME. SHOW ME THE GLORY...

SOMEONE... PLEASE... HELP ME...



...TO EXPLORE THE LIMITS OF THEIR CREATIVITY...





HELL IS HUNGRY FOR SOULS AND YOU KNOW WHAT? HUMAN SOULS ARE JUST ACHING TO GO STRAIGHT TO HELL.

YOU'VE BEEN A NAUGHTY DOLLY, AND YOU SHAN'T HAVE ANY PUDDING.



KRAAAK K-R-AAA  
AKK

CAN YOU FEEL IT? CAN YOU FEEL THE EVIL?

YOU CAN'T SHUT THIS WORLD OFF FROM HELL.

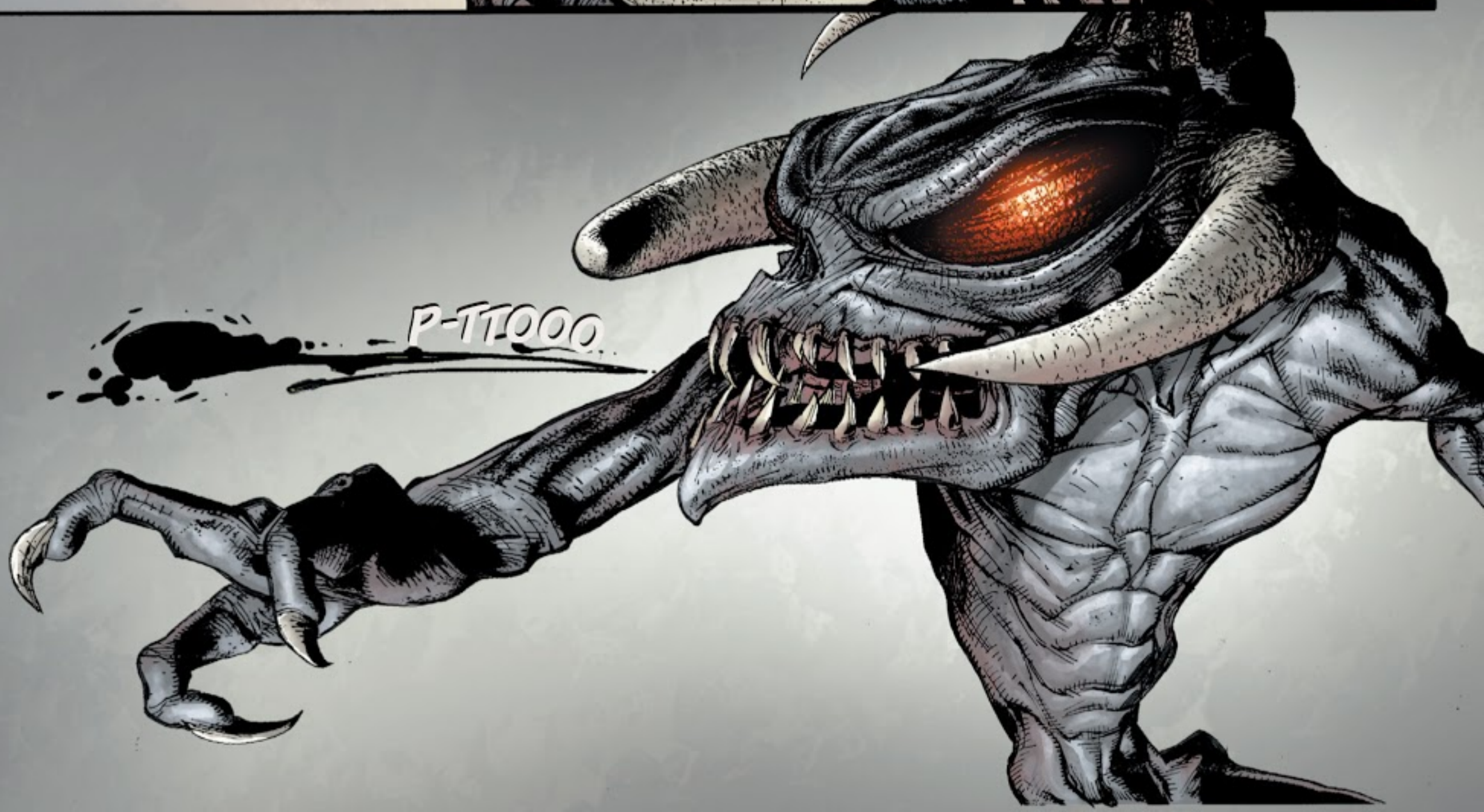


THEY NEED HELL...

...THEY WANT HELL...

...AND THEY'RE GONNA GET HELL!!









POWER  
OF A GOD,  
MY ASS!

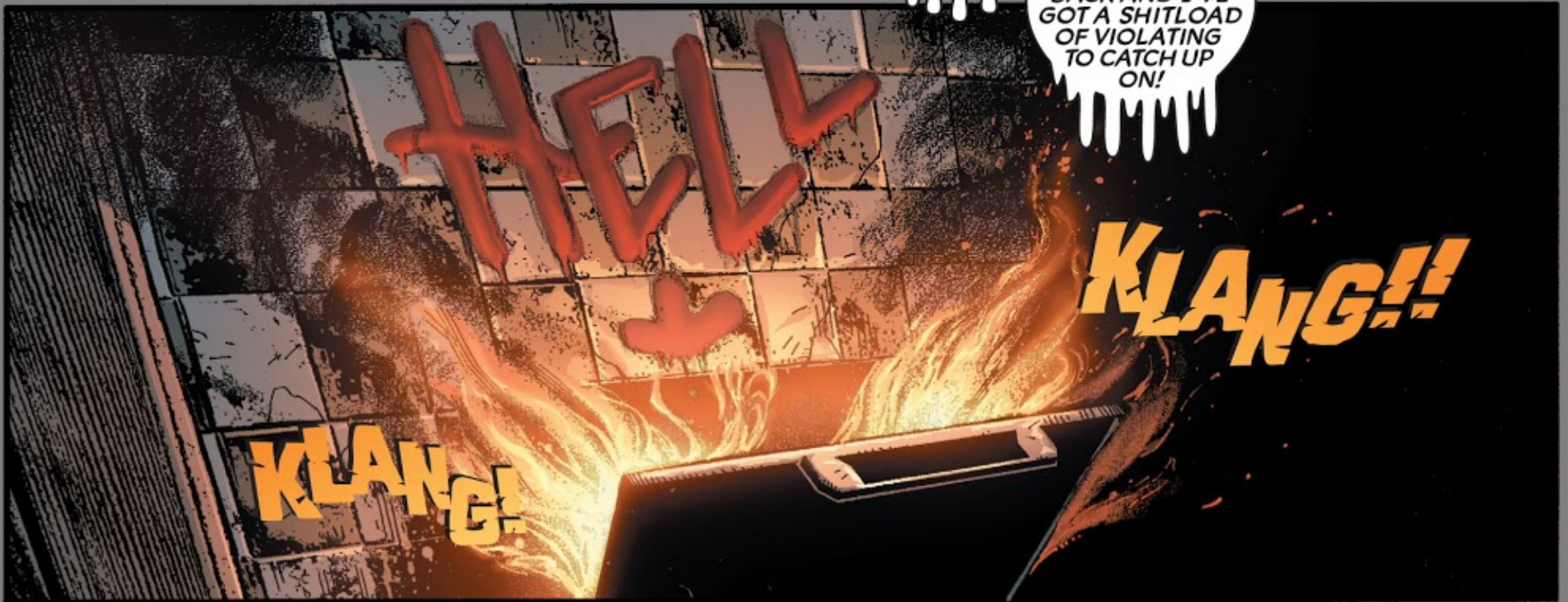
YOU  
AIN'T GOT IT  
ANY MORE HAVE  
YOU? SHE GAVE  
YOU THE POWER  
AND SHE TOOK  
IT AWAY.

I'VE STILL GOT  
WHAT IT TAKES TO WIPE  
THE FLOOR WITH A  
SECOND-RATE LOSER  
LIKE YOU, CLOWN.



THE NAME'S  
VIOLATOR!

CLOWN'S  
GONE, BABY!  
THE BIG BAD IS  
BACK AND I'VE  
GOT A SHITLOAD  
OF VIOLATING  
TO CATCH UP  
ON!



YOU HEAR  
THAT? THE DOOR  
TO HELL IS OPEN. MY  
BROTHERS ARE  
COMING!

SAM, GET  
WILMA UP  
HERE... -FAST!





YOU BETTER  
TAKE A DEEP  
BREATH,  
LADY.  
YOUR  
PRECIOUS  
BARNEY HAS  
BEEN THROUGH  
SOME  
CHANGES...









LISTEN. WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE EVIL HERE. SURE, IT OPENED UP THE GATEWAY TO HELL, BUT IT CAN ONLY STAY OPEN WHILE HE'S ON THIS SIDE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?



HE'S SHARING MY BRAIN CELLS. HE HAS MY MEMORIES, I HAVE HIS.

AND THAT, LET ME TELL YOU, IS ABOUT AS MUCH FUN AS TAKING A DIP IN AN OPEN SEWER.



I CAN'T KEEP HIM SHUT DOWN MUCH LONGER. HE'S TOO STRONG FOR ME.

YOU HAVE TO SEND ME BACK DOWN THERE. STRAIGHT BACK DOWN TO HELL!



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

SURE? NO, I'M NOT SURE. BUT NEITHER OF US HAVE ANY CHOICE, DO WE?

THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!

BARNEY!



BARNEY! DON'T LEAVE ME!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AGAIN.







CLEAR THE BUILDING!

GET EVERYONE WHO'S STILL ALIVE OUT OF HERE!

I'M SEALING THIS HELL-HOLE FOR GOOD!

WHUMMPH!

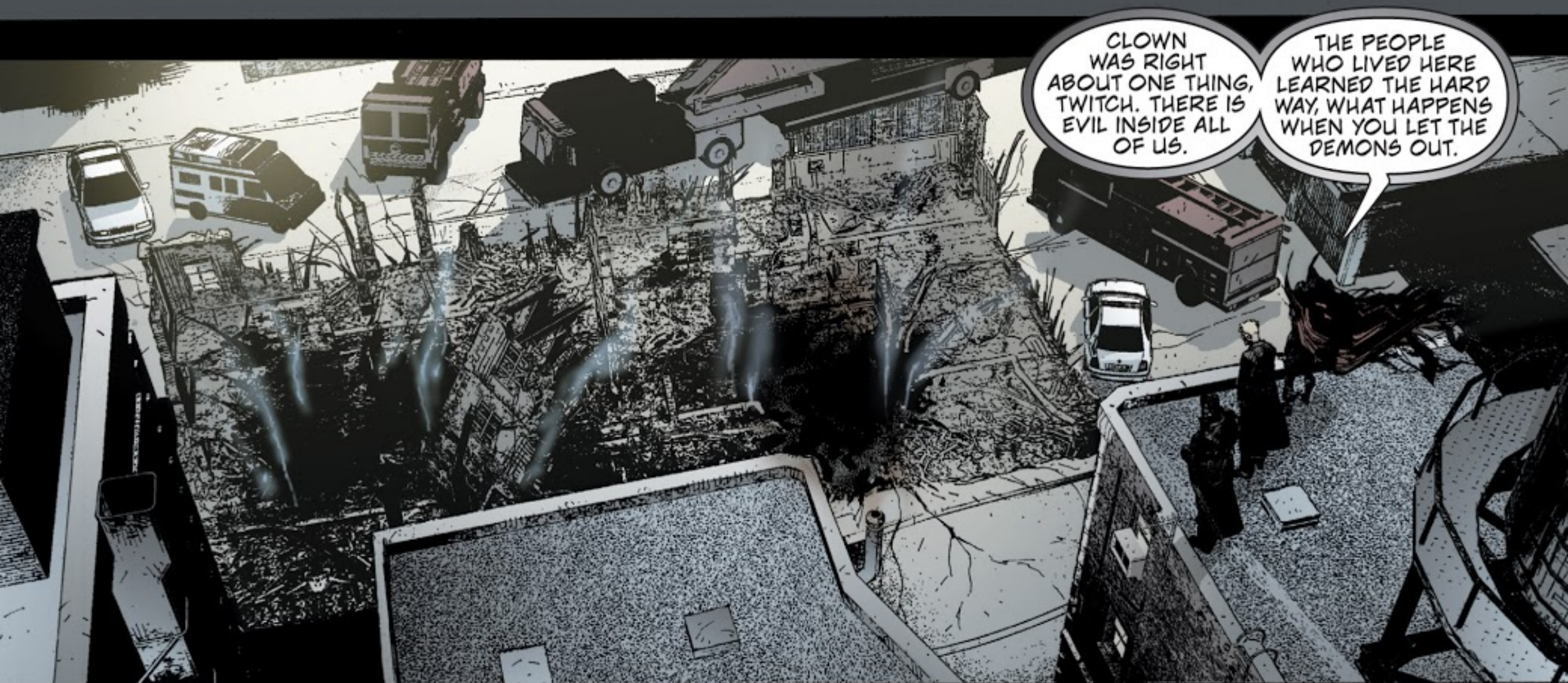
WHUMPH!

WHUMPH!

"THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN ISN'T IT?"

WHUMPH!





CLOWN  
WAS RIGHT  
ABOUT ONE THING,  
TWITCH. THERE IS  
EVIL INSIDE ALL  
OF US.

THE PEOPLE  
WHO LIVED HERE  
LEARNED THE HARD  
WAY, WHAT HAPPENS  
WHEN YOU LET THE  
DEMONS OUT.



THEY HAVE  
TO LIVE  
WITH WHAT  
THEY'VE  
DONE...



...TO THEIR  
FAMILIES...



...TO THEM-  
SELVES...



BUT IF THIS  
HAPPENS AGAIN...  
WHEN IT HAPPENS...  
I'LL BE THERE.

YEAH, WELL,  
YOU NEED ANY  
HELP, YOU  
KNOW WHERE  
TO FIND US.

IF INTERNAL  
AFFAIRS  
DOESN'T TAKE  
OUR BADGES  
OVER WILMA  
BARBERA.

HOW  
ABOUT  
THAT? BACK  
TOGETHER  
AGAIN...

...THE THREE  
FRIGGING  
STOOGES!





HE'S  
DONE IT!  
SPAWN HAS  
CLOSED THE  
DOORWAY  
TO HELL....



...JUST AS  
YOU WISHED,  
MAMMON.

WELL  
DONE  
SPAWN.

WELL DONE,  
MY GOOD  
AND FAITHFUL  
SERVANT.

NEXT ISSUE: *Voodoo Child...*







HINE  
HABERLIN

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

VOODOO CHILD  
PART ONE OF ONE



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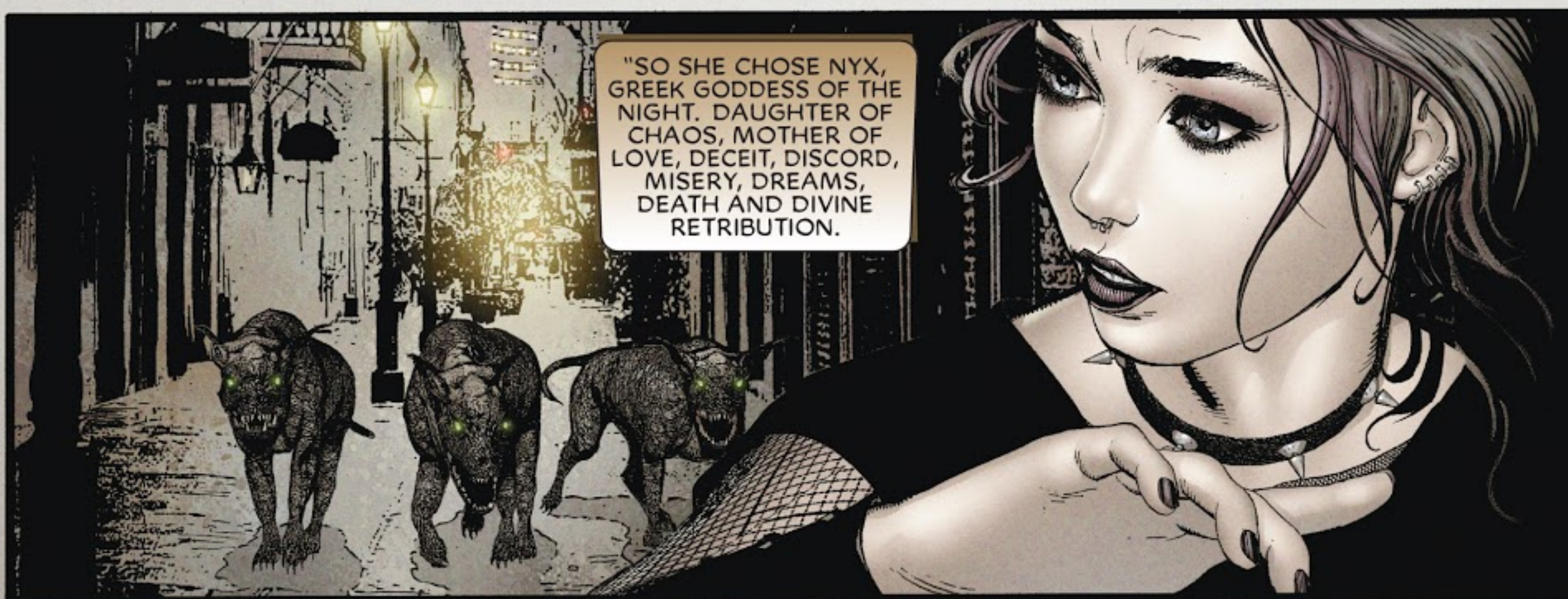


"NEW ORLEANS. THE FRENCH QUARTER. SOME TIME AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD."

"THE YOUNG WOMAN IS CALLED NYX. THAT ISN'T HER GIVEN NAME OF COURSE. WHO WOULD EVER CALL THEIR DAUGHTER NYX?"



"SHE TOOK THE NAME WHEN SHE WAS TWELVE. BY THEN SHE HAD BEEN PRACTICING MAGICK FOR FOUR YEARS AND CARRIE ANN JUST DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT ANY MORE."



"SO SHE CHOSE NYX, GREEK GODDESS OF THE NIGHT. DAUGHTER OF CHAOS, MOTHER OF LOVE, DECEIT, DISCORD, MISERY, DREAMS, DEATH AND DIVINE RETRIBUTION."

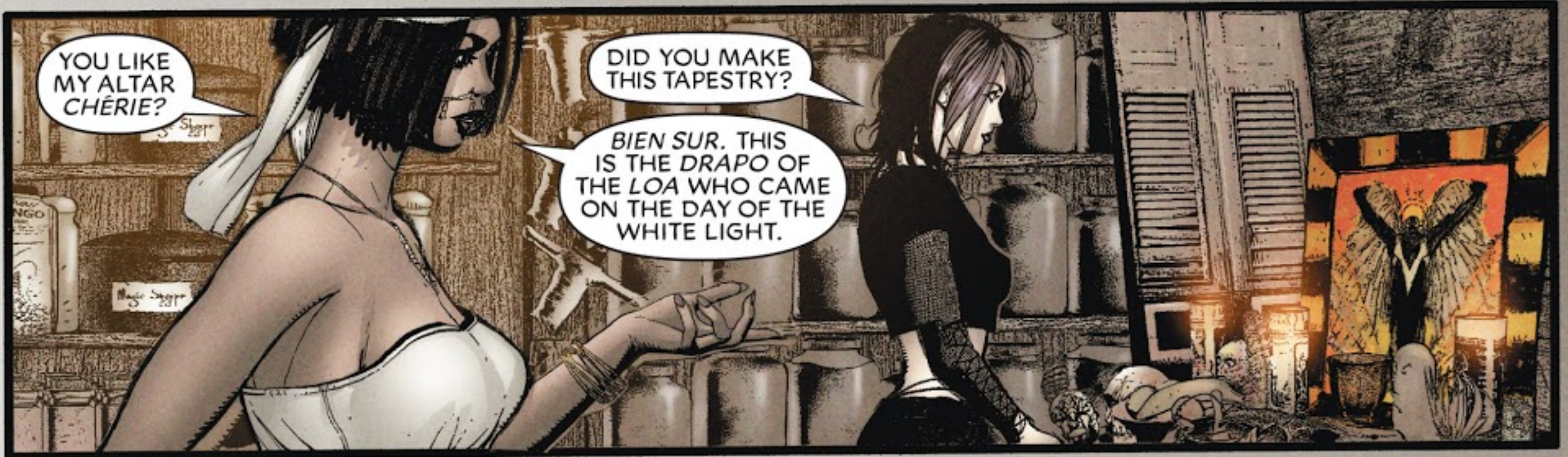


"YOU WOULDN'T THINK SHE'D BE AFRAID OF A FEW STRAY DOGS..."









YOU LIKE  
MY ALTAR  
CHÉRIE?

DID YOU MAKE  
THIS TAPESTRY?

BIEN SUR. THIS  
IS THE DRAPO OF  
THE LOA WHO CAME  
ON THE DAY OF THE  
WHITE LIGHT.



YOU THINK  
HE'S A LOA?

A GHEDE LOA.  
A SPIRIT OF THE  
DEAD. I HAVEN'T  
LEARNED HIS NAME  
YET. ONE DAY I WILL  
CALL HIM DOWN  
AND HE WILL  
RIDE ME.



ARE YOU A  
PRIESTESS?

CHILD, I'M  
SUZANNE LEFÈVRE.  
LA PLUS CÉLÈBRE,  
LA PLUS PUISSANTE  
MAMBO IN ALL OF  
NEW ORLEANS.

AND YOU?  
WHAT BRINGS  
YOU HERE? WHAT  
DO YOU NEED? A  
CHARME FOR  
YOUR LOVER?

NO  
I JUST--  
THERE WERE  
DOGS--



DOGS?



YOU'RE NOT  
A TOURIST ARE  
YOU? YOU HAVE  
POWER. I CAN  
FEEL IT.

NOT ANY  
MORE. I LOST  
MY MAGICK  
WHEN I VIOLATED  
THE CODE OF  
WICCA.

I DID  
SOMEONE  
GREAT  
HARM.



"SHE OPENS HER HEART TO YOU. ALTHOUGH SHE DOES NOT KNOW YOU, SHE TELLS YOU THINGS SHE HAS NEVER SPOKEN OF BEFORE."

THERE WAS A MAN WHO CAME TO ME. A BROKEN MAN...

"...WE WERE LOVERS FOR A WHILE."

"HE WAS SICK. HIS SOUL WAS TORN APART. I WANTED TO HEAL HIM SO I USED MY MAGICK TO RESTORE THE PART OF HIM THAT WAS MISSING."

"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS RELEASING. THE TERRIBLE DARKNESS HE HAD INSIDE HIM."

"I WAS ARROGANT ENOUGH TO THINK I COULD CONTROL IT. IN THE END I BETRAYED HIM. I MADE A PACT WITH A DEMON NAMED MAMMON AND I PAID THE PRICE."

"HE TOOK MY MAGICK AWAY."





I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS. I THOUGHT I COULD. I THOUGHT I COULD BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. I'D FORGOTTEN HOW DULL THE WORLD IS WITHOUT MAGICK. SO GRAY, SO LIFELESS.

MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU, SISTER.

I HAVE SOMEONE. A HOUNGAN. MAITRE JACQUES LENOIR. I'M ON MY WAY TO SEE HIM NOW.



LENOIR! LISTEN TO ME! THAT MAN IS NO HOUNGAN.

JACQUES LENOIR IS A BOKOR! HE PRACTICES LEFT-HANDED VODOU-

-EVIL SORCERY!

I KNOW THAT. I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.

I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO LOSE.



MA PAUVRE PETITE. HERE, TAKE THIS...

...TO PROTECT YOU.

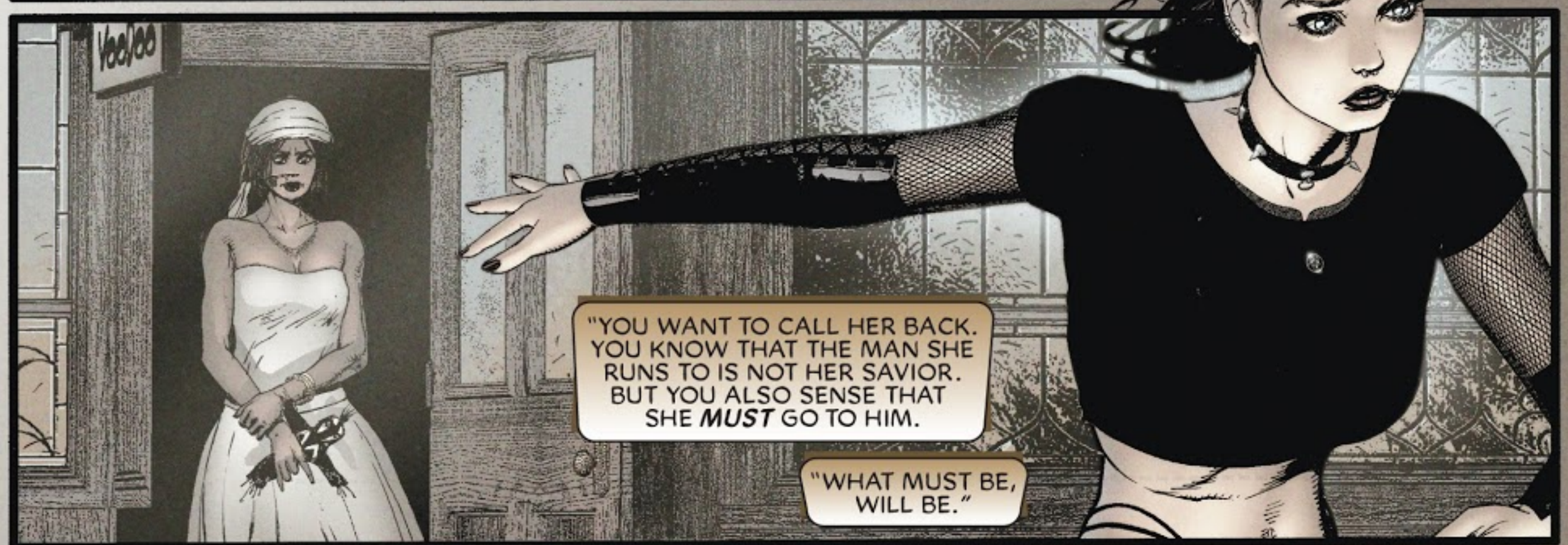
KEEP YOUR DOLLS FOR THE TOURISTS, MAMBO SUZANNE.



HIS NAME IS AL.

THE LOA WHO SAVED THE WORLD...

AL SIMMONS.



"YOU WANT TO CALL HER BACK. YOU KNOW THAT THE MAN SHE RUNS TO IS NOT HER SAVIOR. BUT YOU ALSO SENSE THAT SHE **MUST** GO TO HIM.

"WHAT MUST BE, WILL BE."



"NO SIGN  
OF THE  
DOGS  
NOW. THE  
STREETS  
ARE AS  
DESERTED  
AS A  
DREAM."

613  
*Le Noir*

I'M HERE.

EVIDENTLY.

WHAT KEPT  
YOU? HAVING  
SECOND  
THOUGHTS?

"POOR NYX. SO  
DESPERATE. SO LOST.  
HOW COULD ANYONE  
IN THEIR RIGHT MIND  
TRUST A MAN LIKE  
THIS?"

"JACQUES  
LENOIR,  
REAL NAME  
TERENCE  
WILLS - A  
TALENTED  
CHARLATAN.  
LIKE HIS  
NAME, MOST  
OF THIS IS  
SHAM."

"THE SNAKE  
HAS HAD ITS  
POISON  
REMOVED. THE  
SUPERNATURAL  
TRAPPINGS ARE  
NO MORE THAN  
MEANINGLESS  
SYMBOLS."

"NYX HAS SOLD EVERYTHING SHE  
OWNS TO PAY LENOIR FOR THIS  
CEREMONY. IF IT FAILS, SHE  
PLANS TO END HER OWN LIFE  
WITH THE SAME MOON BLADE  
SHE USED ON AL SIMMONS."











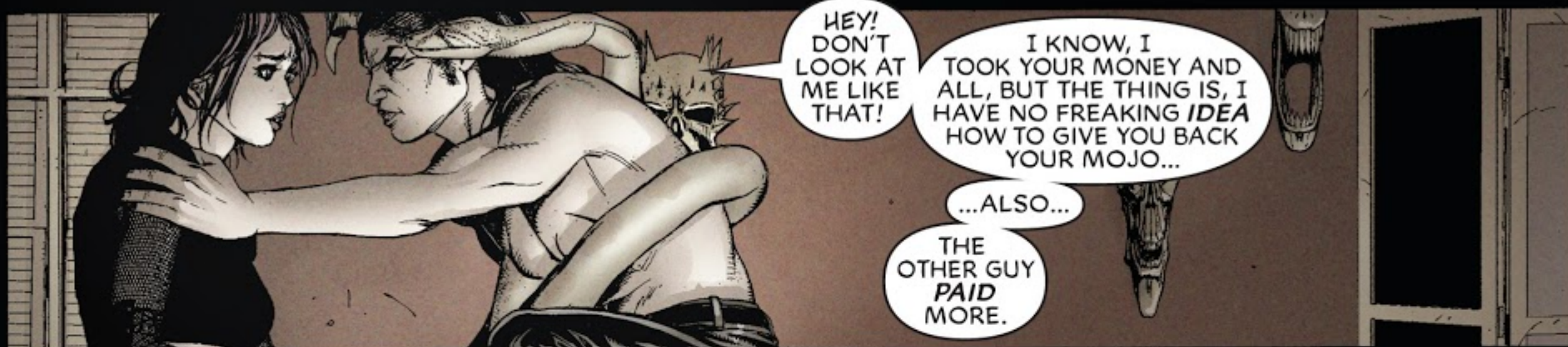




CAN'T  
MOVE  
CAN  
YOU?

DAMN!  
I WASN'T  
SURE THIS  
WOULD  
ACTUALLY  
WORK. THE  
DOSAGE IS  
TRICKY.

COULD'A  
HAD A STIFF ON  
MY HANDS.



HEY!  
DON'T  
LOOK AT  
ME LIKE  
THAT!

I KNOW, I  
TOOK YOUR MONEY AND  
ALL, BUT THE THING IS, I  
HAVE NO FREAKING *IDEA*  
HOW TO GIVE YOU BACK  
YOUR MOJO...

...ALSO...

THE  
OTHER GUY  
*PAID*  
MORE.



I GUESS YOU'RE  
WONDERING WHAT  
HAPPENS NOW. THE  
GOOD NEWS IS, I'M NOT  
SOME KIND'A WEIRD  
SEX PERVERT.

BUT... SEE...  
THIS GUY... HE'S  
KIND'A SCARY, YOU  
KNOW... IN A ROBERT  
DE NIRO KIND'A  
WAY. CHARISMATIC,  
BUT *SCARY*.

SO I'M  
GONNA DO  
EXACTLY LIKE  
HE SAID.



FIRST, I  
GIVE YOU THIS.  
PRETTY COOL,  
HUH?

YOU BE  
CAREFUL WITH  
THAT. I WOULDN'T  
WANT YOU TO CUT  
YOURSELF.



NOW I  
GOTTA SHOW  
YOU WHAT'S  
UNDER HERE. AND  
I APOLOGIZE IN  
ADVANCE FOR  
THIS.



THIS IS  
*REALLY*  
GONNA FREAK  
YOU OUT...



"ZERA. QUEEN  
OF THE SERAPHIM.  
HEAVEN'S GREATEST  
WARRIOR.

"GOD LOVED  
HER ABOVE ALL  
OTHERS AND SO  
HE REWARDED  
HER WITH  
IMMORTALITY.

"WHILE  
OTHER ANGELS  
MAY BE  
DESTROYED,  
ZERA CAN  
NEVER DIE.

AAAAHHH-H

"THIS IS  
HER  
GIFT.

"THIS IS HER  
CURSE."







SOMEONE...  
SOMETHING  
CALLED ME HERE.



THIS PLACE  
STINKS OF  
SORCERY.

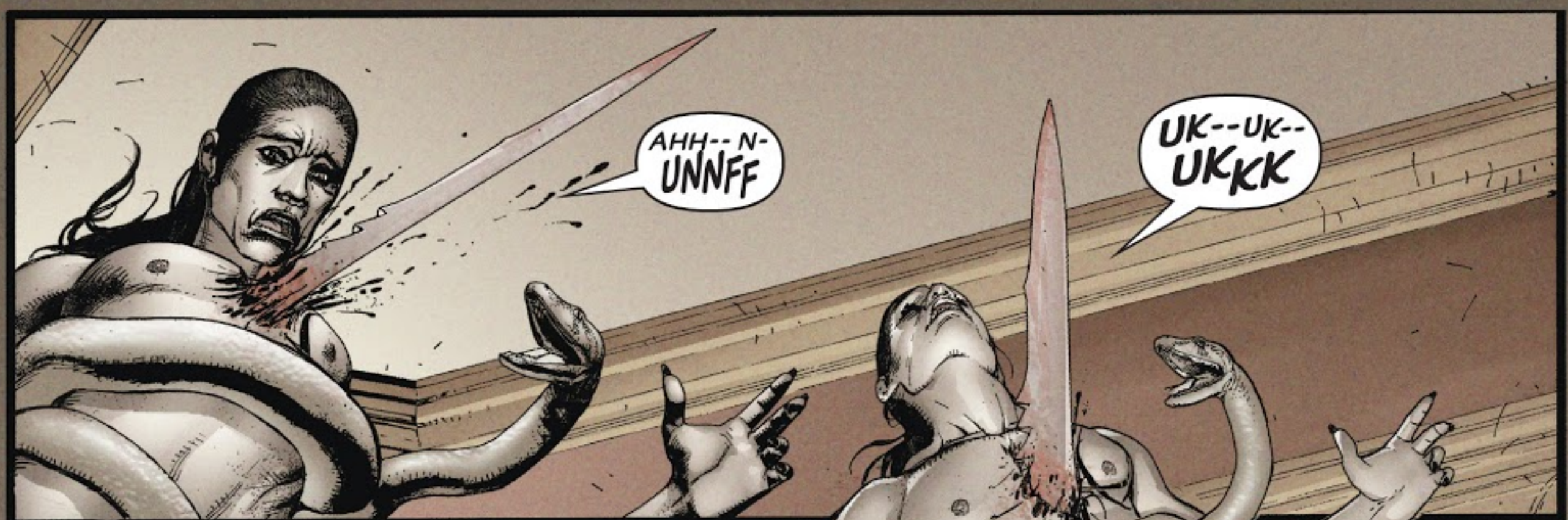
NYX?



OH JESUS!  
JESUS HOLY  
CHRIST!

THAT  
HEAD!  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU DONE  
HERE?

I DON'T  
KNOW...I SWEAR...  
IT WAS HIM...THE  
MAN WITH THE  
SC-



AHH--N-  
UNNFF

UK--UK--  
UKKK



TOUCHÉ!

"FIRST CLOWN, NOW ZERA.  
THE LOWEST VERMIN OF  
HELL AND HEAVEN,  
WORMING THEIR WAY  
BACK INTO YOUR WORLD  
THROUGH INNOCENT  
HUMAN VESSELS.

"DOESN'T THAT  
PISS YOU OFF?

"DOESN'T THAT  
MAKE YOU  
MAD?"









IT SEEMS I'LL  
BE KEEPING THIS  
BODY FOR A  
WHILE.

DO I HAVE  
TO BEAT YOU  
AGAIN?

BEAT ME?!  
BUT YOU WON'T DO  
THAT, WILL YOU? YOU  
WON'T HURT POOR  
LITTLE NYX.

BESIDES,  
THE LAST TIME  
WE FOUGHT YOU  
HAD THE POWER  
OF A GOD. NOW  
YOU'RE...  
WELL... WHAT  
ARE YOU  
EXACTLY...?

NOT A **GOD**,  
THAT'S CERTAIN.  
NOT EVEN A MAN.  
I HATE TO THINK  
WHAT YOU HAVE  
BETWEEN YOUR  
LEGS.

YOU'RE A  
SHADOW OF A  
MAN...

...A  
**HOLLOW**  
MAN.



WAS  
IT A  
**WOMAN**  
WHO DID  
THIS TO  
YOU?



WAS IT A  
WOMAN  
WHO TOOK  
YOUR  
MANHOOD?!







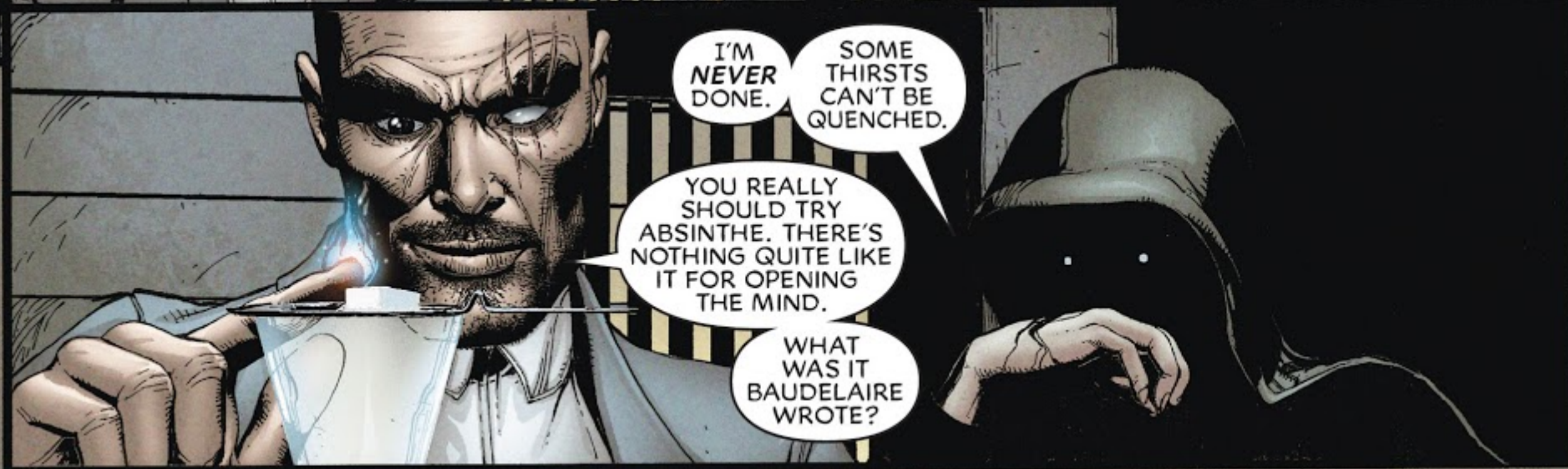
"AND  
SO IT  
GOES..."



...THE  
ACTORS  
PLAY OUT  
THEIR  
PARTS.



ARE  
YOU DONE  
FEEDING  
YET?



I'M  
**NEVER**  
DONE.

SOME  
THIRSTS  
CAN'T BE  
QUENCHED.

YOU REALLY  
SHOULD TRY  
ABSINTHE. THERE'S  
NOTHING QUITE LIKE  
IT FOR OPENING  
THE MIND.

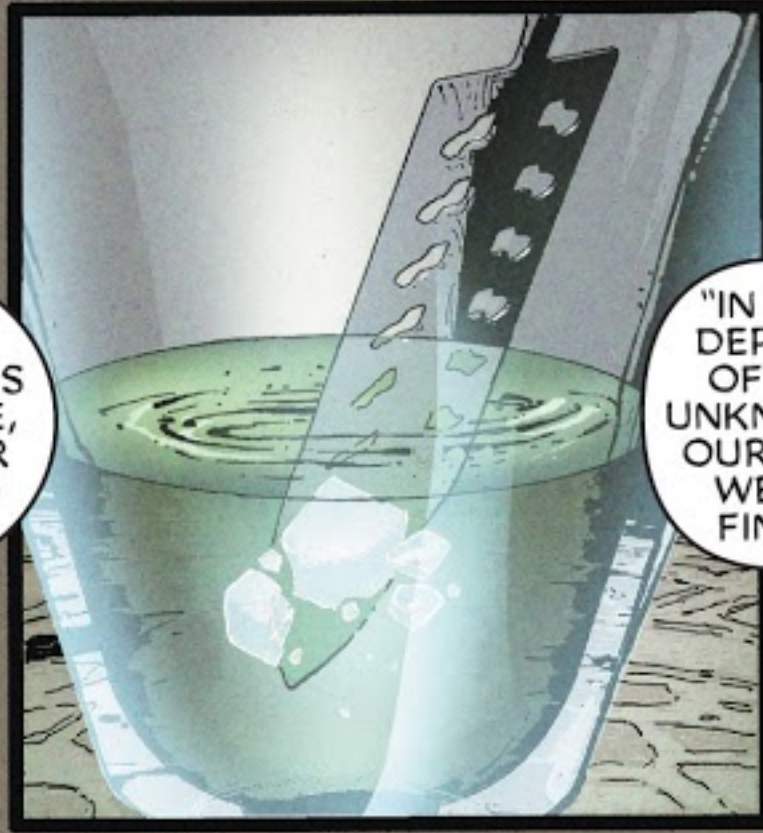
WHAT  
WAS IT  
BAUDELAIRE  
WROTE?



"POUR  
US YOUR  
SOOTHING  
POISON. THE  
FIRE SO  
BURNS OUR  
MIND."

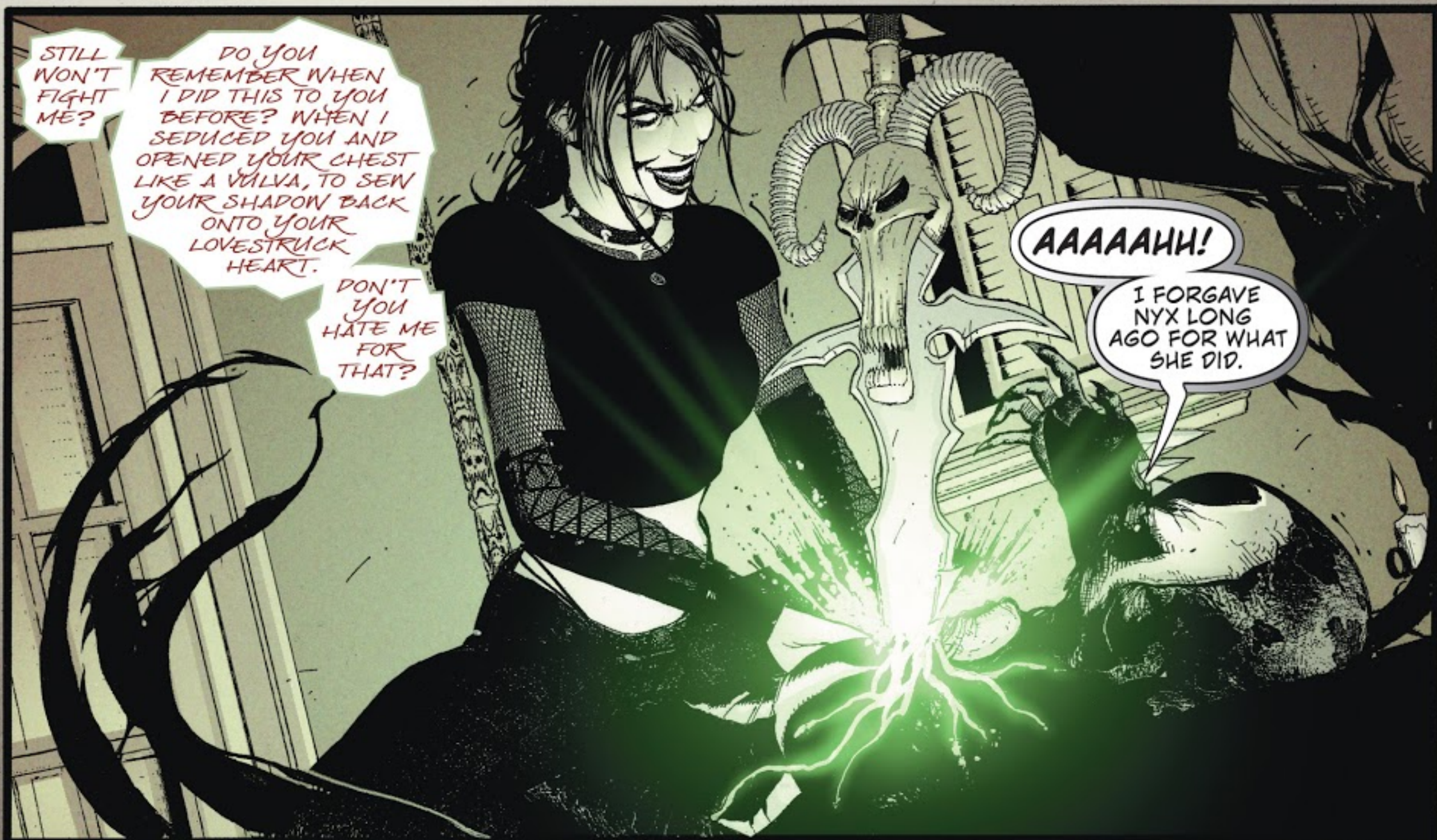
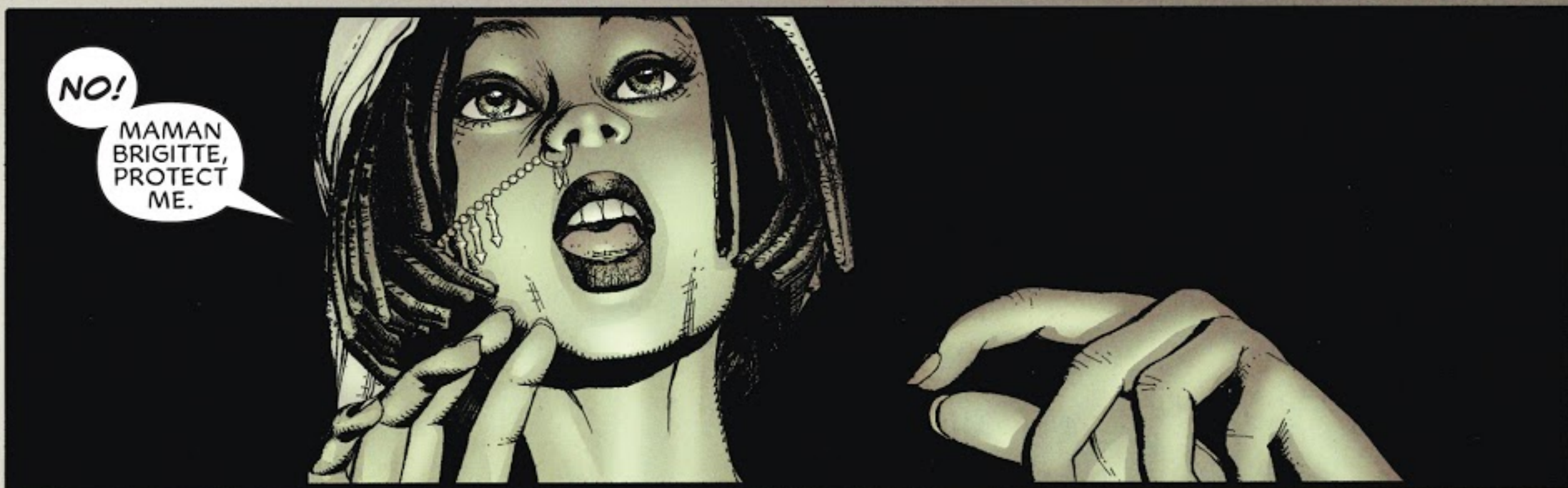


"TO  
PLUNGE IN  
THE ABYSS IS  
OUR DESIRE,  
HEAVEN OR  
HELL WHO  
CARES?!"

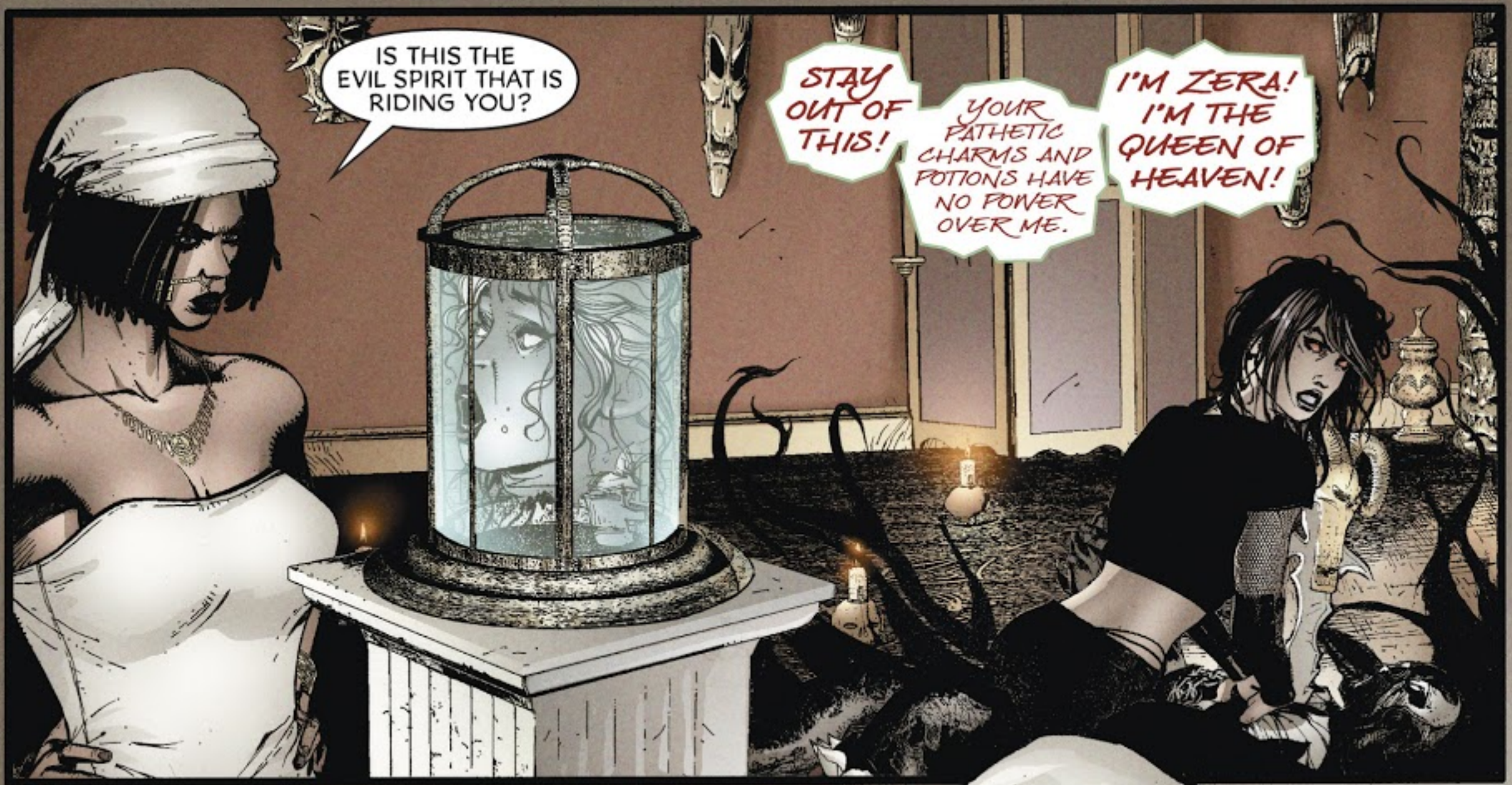


"IN THE  
DEPTHS  
OF THE  
UNKNOWN,  
OUR FATE  
WE'LL  
FIND."









IS THIS THE  
EVIL SPIRIT THAT IS  
RIDING YOU?

STAY  
OUT OF  
THIS!

YOUR  
PATHETIC  
CHARMS AND  
POTIONS HAVE  
NO POWER  
OVER ME.

I'M ZERA!  
I'M THE  
QUEEN OF  
HEAVEN!



I WOULDN'T  
WASTE MY SKILLS  
ON YOU...



...SALE  
PUTE!

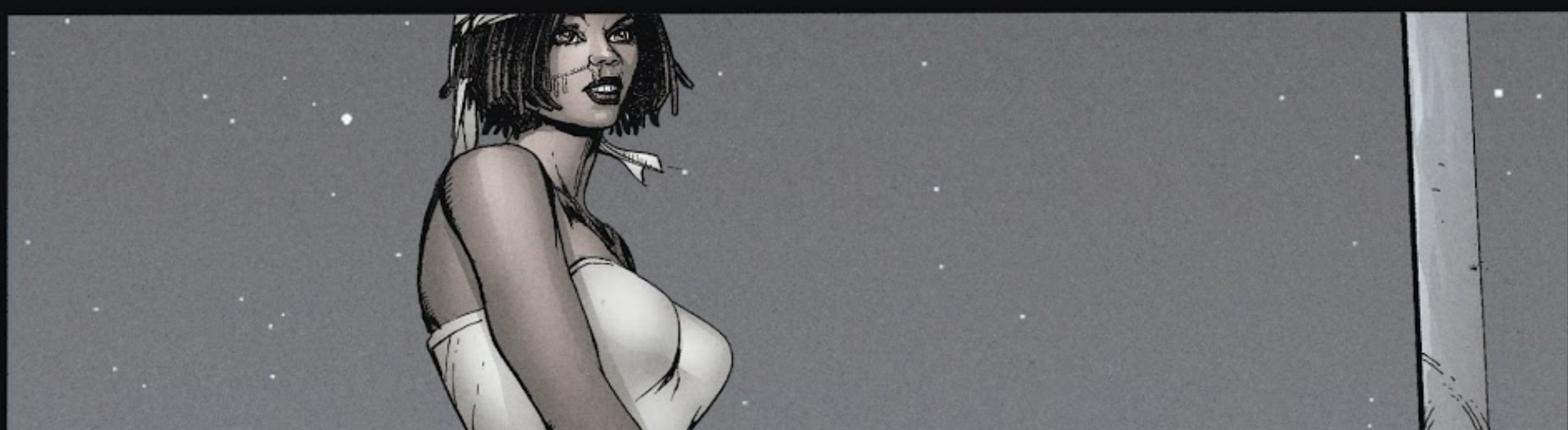


QUEEN  
OF HEAVEN...  
MON CUL!

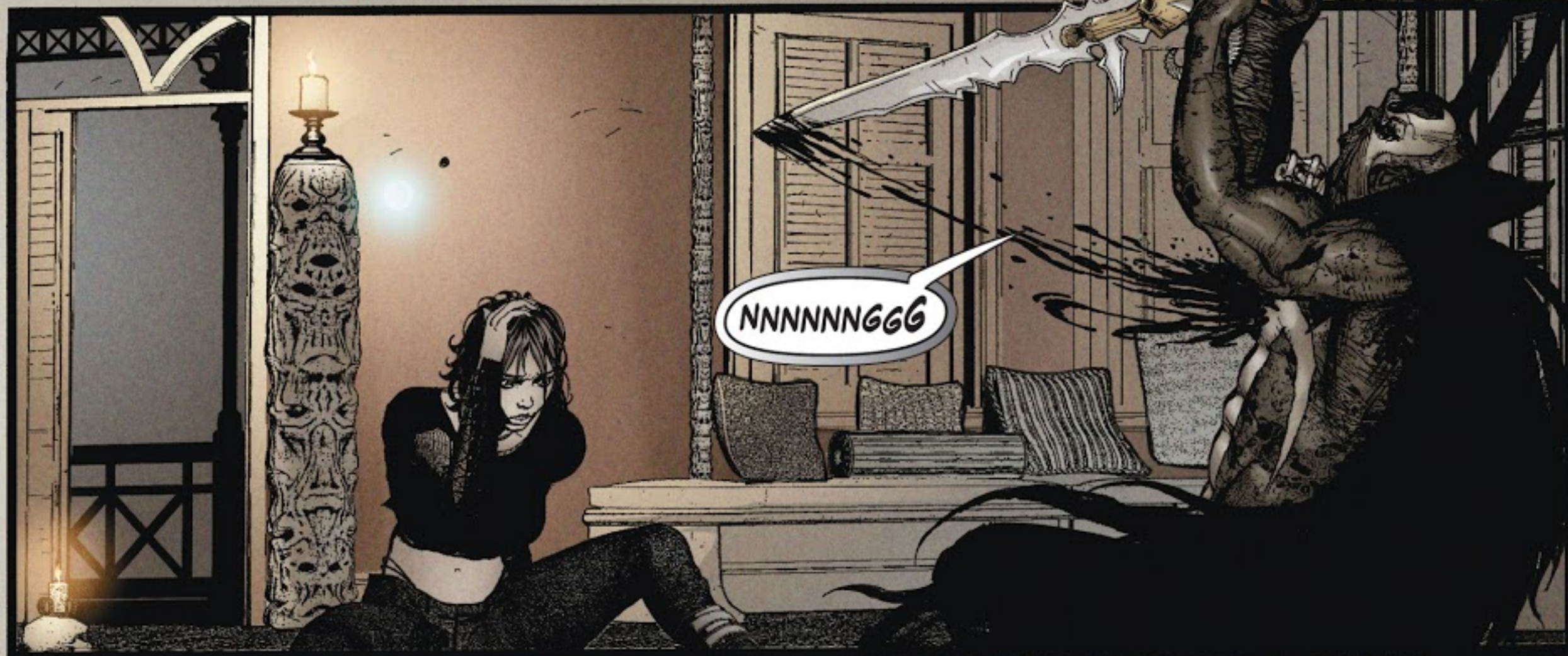














WHY WOULD I HURT YOU?  
ZERA'S GONE.

SO YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID? YOU'VE FORGIVEN ME?

THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE. EVERYTHING YOU DID, WAS DONE FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.



BUT I BETRAYED YOU. I GAVE MAMMON POWER OVER YOU.

THAT'S NOTHING TO THE SINS I'VE COMMITTED.



I LOVED YOU AL. DID YOU KNOW THAT?



AL SIMMONS IS GONE. HE DIED A LONG TIME AGO.

THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT. THIS MONSTER.



NO, AL. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN.

YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT IF YOU KNEW WHAT I'VE DONE.



TELL ME WHAT YOU DID, THEN...

AND I'LL TELL YOU IF YOU'RE A MONSTER.









